

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 16, 2012

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War hero

It's a miracle I survived bombing raids, says Ted

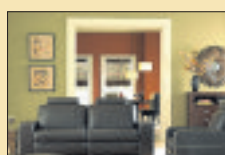
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Competition

Bella! Your chance to win the Italian look

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Jako backing

Legend Bob gives his support to injured player

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Man falls to death from flat window

A MAN has died after suffering serious injuries when he fell from the window of a first floor flat in Halesowen.

Paramedics were called to the block of flats in Hagley Road at around 5.15pm on Monday to find the 45-year-old man lying on the ground. He was treated at the scene before being transferred to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Police were also called and cordoned off an area to the rear of the flat block.

Officers said the man had died at hospital from the injuries. His next of kin has been notified.

The rear of the flats were sealed while police launched an investigation to determine why the man had fallen.

Officers were also carrying out an extensive examination of the flat to further uncover how he had come to fall from the window.

Residents at the flats said the man was not believed to have lived there but knew the occupant.

But they thought the flat to be empty although Dudley Council, which owns the complex, said there was still an active tenancy.

One resident, who did not wish to be named, said: "The ambulance service found him lying on the ground outside. We were told he had later died in hospital."

West Midlands Police spokesman Billy Corrigan said: "The man was taken to hospital but was badly injured and later died. We are still examining the flat to determine how he came to fall."

Date set for zoo chairlift

THE grand opening of Dudley Zoo's iconic chairlift will take place on August Bank Holiday weekend.

The £100,000 refurbishment of the lift on Castle Hill has taken four months and will bring it back into use for the first time in 12 years.

It will carry people to the 11th century Dudley Castle in two minutes, giving panoramic views across Sandwell to Birmingham.

John creams in profits after 'Dragon' rejection



John Richardson with his winning cream

AN ANTI-AGEING face cream that was dismissed as "poppycock" on the BBC's Dragons' Den is now making £500,000 a month for a Black Country entrepreneur – as he prepares to open his first shop in the region.

The judging panel featuring Duncan Bannatyne and Deborah Meaden turned down John Richardson's natural alternative to Botox when he appeared on the popular show last year.

But worldwide sales of the £90-a-bottle Richibrown Organic Nattox cream are

bringing in thousands for the 39-year-old, of Dudley Road, Halesowen.

The product has a £3 million turnover and is on sale in 18 countries including Australia and South Africa.

Natural

A Richibrown shop will open in Brierley Hill High Street in November and Mr Richardson also has the product in Selfridges, while later this year it will hit the shelves in Boots.

The father-of-two, who grew up in Pedmore, Stourbridge, and went to

Pedmore Technology College, said the cream uses natural and organic ingredients to create the same effect as Botox.

The former coffee machine salesman enlisted the help of his friend Dr Chris Vorster to develop the design and after six years of testing, Richibrown was ready to sell.

He said: "The reaction I got from the Dragons could have left most people on the floor but not me I was so convinced in my product that it spurred me on all the more to prove them wrong."

Delight for fans as Yeltz praised

HALESOWEN Town FC is celebrating after being named club of the year – months after being bought out of financial turmoil by its new owner.

The Yeltz, along with its junior side Halesowen Town Colts, won Charter Standard Development Club of the Year from the Birmingham County Football Association.

It is now in the running for a West Midlands club of the year award.

The non-league outfit is soaring under the leadership of Staffordshire businessman, Steve Lynch, who took over last year.

Officials have forged stronger links with the Colts, which had soured under previous administration led by brothers Godfrey and Geoffrey Ingram and Morell Maison prior to them.

This work, together with hosting a community fun day earlier this year for the community, has led to the county FA honour.

Around 60 supporters met club officials on Monday night at a fans forum.

The Yeltz Trust supporters group has donated more than £2,500 to help fund improvements at The Grove Stadium.

Supporters representative Gary Willetts said relations between the board and fans were on a high.

A welcome for Kristian

OLYMPIC star Kristian Thomas will be given a hero's welcome at a civic reception when he returns to the Halesowen gym club where he trains.

Organisers hope residents from across the region will turn up at Earls Gymnastics Club on August 21 at 6pm.

The ceremony will be led by Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, and will feature members of Halesowen's five other sports clubs.

Kristian, who won bronze in the team event, will be wearing his Team GB tracksuit and medal.

● Talks planned – Page 12

BUILDERS BOWLED OVER BY INQUIRIES

By Adam Burling

A CONTROVERSIAL housing estate on a former cricket club in Halesowen that attracted a 700-plus protest petition has now received more than 1,000 inquiries, according to the developer, which said it will be open within weeks.

Barratt West Midlands is building 59 properties on the site of Coombeswood Sports and Social Club, Coombes Road. It said this week that more than 1,000 potential buyers had made inquiries.

Drivers given theft warning

POLICE are warning motorists to be vigilant after seven catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles in the past four weeks.

Metal thieves have targeted cars in Halesowen, Stourbridge and Brierley Hill for the high-value parts. Neighbourhood officers are encouraging owners to mark their catalytic converters with a unique code to be recorded on the Retainagroup register.

Sergeant Andy Springthorpe said: "This kind of theft is proving to be an issue across Dudley and it is important that all motorists and businesses who own high-clearance vehicles, like 4x4s or vans, are aware of how best to protect them."

"Officers are already taking action to combat the theft of catalytic converters, including running high-visibility patrols, undercover operations and working with scrap yards and garages."

He suggested owners retain the cut area of the exhaust when it was replaced as police may be able to make a match on any recovered converter.

Residents have campaigned for three years against plans for a replacement clubhouse which were drawn up when permission for these homes was granted.

They said it, a cricket pitch and a bowling green on Coombeswood Green Wedge, off Stewarts Road, would ruin the area.

More than 700 people signed a petition against the development, being built by St Modwen, when they were first unveiled but they were given the nod in 2009.

They argued the site was a wildlife haven and every year attracted thousands of walkers and nature enthusiasts. They feared birds and animals living on the site would be disturbed by the development.

Objectors included the Friends of Leasowes, The Monarch's Way Association and the Halesowen Abbey Trust.

Work on the homes is close to being finished and arratt sales manager Katie Yates said: "We're delighted with the amount of inquiries we've had for The Pavilions which we hope will lead to a great launch and a successful start."

"The number of inquiries we've had should be a good indication of the number of visitors we can expect once The Pavilions is open and we're looking forward to showing people round the show homes and talking them through the development plans."

Friends take up walk challenge



Michael Kenyon and Josh Price prepare for the walk in aid of friend Dan Hemmings

TWO friends of a father diagnosed with cancer aim to fulfil his ambition of doing a 100-mile walk – and fundraise in the process.

Dan Hemmings, from Halesowen, had planned to go on the trek to Aberystwyth, but after being told he had sarcoma in June he dropped the idea.

However, his two friends, Michael Kenyon and Josh Price have taken on the challenge and were due to begin the three-day walk today.

The pair, both aged 23, have decided to do the walk to raise cash for Cancer Research UK.

Mr Hemmings, of Charles Road, was diagnosed with cancer after a lump the size of a tennis ball appeared on his lower back.

He has had extensive chemotherapy since June and after scans in September an operation can take place to remove the cancer.

He said: "It was a complete shock to be told I had the cancer."

Sponsors should visit www.justgiving.com/michael-kenyon or www.justgiving.com/josh-price1

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It's a miracle I survived bombing raids, says Ted

By Louise Jew

BARELY a day has gone by in the past 68 years that former Lancaster bomber flight engineer Edwin 'Ted' Grosvenor has not counted himself lucky to be alive – and with good reason.

While more than 55,000 of his RAF comrades in Bomber Command – about the size of a football crowd, Ted points out – lost their lives, he and the other six members of his Lancaster crew all came out of the Second World War alive.

Now a fit 88-year-old – apart from a touch of spondylitis – Ted, from Halesowen, says: "It's a miracle. From the time you took off to the time you landed you were a target for any German fighter planes."

"I think it was just sheer luck that got us through. I must have had a guardian angel." Smethwick-born Edwin Grosvenor, known as Ted, now of King Charles Avenue, Halesowen, recalls some of the 30 missions he flew, referring to his well-thumbed log book.

The first – after joining 622 Squadron, based at Mildenhall on completion of his flight crew training for Lancasters – was to Berlin on February 15, 1944.

"It was what became known as the 1,000 bomber night raid to the city and to coordinate it was a fantastic deal," he said.

Ted's job, as Sgt Flight Engineer, was to look after the fuel consumption, switching between the four tanks on the aircraft to make sure the weight balanced up to maintain the best performance.

He stood for much of the flights upfront next to his pilot, Australian Peter Rawsthorn, or sat on the floor.

Target

He recalls the planes battling through ice and snow, zigzagging through areas where there were the heaviest defences, dodging flak from below and attacks from enemy aircraft.

Around 40 miles from their target they would spot the scene lit up by flak and the flares and incendiary bombs dropped by the pathfinder aircraft, who would illuminate targets "like a road map".

The Lancasters would, in their wave of attack, drop bombs that the crew called "cookies", weighing between 5,000 and 10,000lb each.

"Every one of our missions was hairy – but the hairiest has to be to Stuttgart on March 15 1944," he said.

"First an FW190 enemy plane attacked us, then a JU88 attacked, badly damaging our rear turret and the fuselage – and then an ME109 attacked us as we were leaving the target."

"The trip there and back lasted seven hours and 45 minutes. Although the damage was bad it was superficial and we managed to get back."

The worst trepidation for the crews was when they were bombing targets in the hotly defended Ruhr Valley.

Ted claims he was no braver than anyone else – but received in the post a Distinguished Flying Medal from King George VI, who apologised in a letter for not being able to present it personally.

Ted said: "I was as scared as anybody on every op – if anyone said they weren't I wouldn't believe them."

"It wasn't a nice experience – you knew you'd got to do it or your documents would be stamped 'lack of moral fibre'. But I'm proud to have been



Ted with his Distinguished Flying Medal

involved." Ted would have liked to be at the recent unveiling by the Queen in London of a national memorial to the 55,573 Bomber Command airmen who gave their lives in the war, which was attended by more than 800 veterans.

But the first he knew about it was when he saw coverage on television.

Doug Radcliffe, secretary of the Bomber Command Association and a former wireless operator, said there had been widespread advance publicity about the event, which was open to anybody to attend.

Refused

The organisation only knew how to contact those people who were members and Ted was not a member of the association.

The opening of the memorial laid to rest the ghost of successive governments' failings to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of the men of Bomber Command – Churchill and his war cabinet refused to give them a campaign medal, embarrassed by the loss of hundreds of thousands

of civilians while on the trail of the Nazis. After his 30th mission on July 12 1944, Ted was diverted to train other flight crew to work on Lancasters.

He ended up with the rank of Flight Lieutenant and after being demobbed Ted was as a sales and purchasing representative for his uncle's company in Birmingham before, in 1972, setting up Keltcrest Ltd in Oldbury with two colleagues, buying, recycling and selling scrap metal.

He and his wife, Irene, who died in 2000, have two sons, Keith and Ian, five grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Ted, still a member of the Shenstone and Probus clubs in Halesowen, who played at Enville Golf Club for many years, said: "I do still count myself lucky to be alive."

"I know three of my Lancaster crew, the pilot, bomb aimer and navigator, all died in 1999 and I just don't know how many of the others are alive now."



Ted with bomb aimer Bobby Payne



The flight log from an operation over



A painting of Ted by his son, Ian



Ted in his early 20s

Opinions wanted on plans over tax

RESIDENTS in Dudley can air their views on plans for a new council tax support scheme after funding from central government was cut.

From next April the Government is abolishing the current national council tax benefit scheme and replacing it with local council tax support schemes designed and run by councils.

This change comes at the same time Government funding to support the new local schemes will be reduced by 10 per cent, which represents a £2.4 million cut for Dudley.

At a meeting of the cabinet in June it was agreed that, subject to consultation, Dudley Council's preferred option for its 2013/14 scheme is to continue calculating benefit in the same way as it was under the old national scheme.

The council is now asking for residents for their views.

People can visit www.dudley.gov.uk/advice/benefits/ to see the benefits or complete a form in person at Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, Dudley, or by post to Benefit Services, Council House, Dudley

Mystery over man's death

A FATHER-OF-TWO was found dead inside a garage after friends and family had grown concerned for his welfare, an inquest heard.

Shaun Bloor, aged 43, had been struggling to get work as a builder in the weeks before his death on February 23. His mother Yvonne Turvey told the inquest in Dudley the family did not know why he had taken his life.

Mr Bloor had left a message on Facebook that concerned friends and family. They went round to his home in Queens Road, Sedgley, and his body was found in the garage. Pathology reports said no alcohol or drugs were discovered in his system. Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain ruled that Mr Bloor had

Flower power

FAMILIES are being invited to put flowers and animal life under the microscope at a series of workshops at Witley Court and Gardens, Worcestershire. They will take place every Tuesday until August 21, from 11am to 5pm.

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Cricketers carry on to honour teammate

A CRICKET club played two games in honour of a member who died during a match just a week ago.

Pedmore Cricket Club in Stourbridge was asked by the parents of Richard Beaumont to go ahead with the fixtures at the weekend.

The 33-year-old from Halesowen died after suffering a heart attack while playing for the club's first team at the club in Pedmore Hall Road.

On Saturday, his former team-mates lost their match against Worcester Nomads in the Worcester County Cricket League.

The second team also played, beating the Worcester Nomads' second team.

Memorial

Club president Michael Wenham said: "It was the first time the first team had played since the death and I think it may have impacted their game."

"But we were requested by the family to go ahead with the fixture - we were told it was what he would have wanted."

On Wednesday, Mr Beaumont's family joined club members at a memorial on the pitch where the father of one died.

Captain for the second team, Tom Weston, said: "He was a great bloke and we're all still shocked."

Mr Beaumont collapsed during a home game against Astwood Bank on August 4.

Before joining Pedmore, he played for Romsley and Huntington Cricket Club, which he joined as a boy.

More patrols over parking

POLICE patrols have been stepped up in Netherton following complaints after cars being parked dangerously.

There were reports from residents and businesses about vehicles in Halesowen Road, Arch Hill Street and Crossley Street. Problems have also been logged in Baptist End Road and Northfield Road.

Police are working with the council to ensure their wardens are aware of the issues on the ward.

Residents will be given an update by officers at the next PACT meeting on August 30 at 7pm at Netherton Liberal Club, St Thomas Street.

Escaped rottweiler guard dog attacked man

A FACTORY worker was attacked by a rottweiler which had escaped from a neighbouring yard in Cradley, biting his legs and chest, a court heard.

The dog leapt at 55-year-old Nigel Bourne forcing him to the floor as he was working in Phillip Gameson Joinery, Park Lane.

Mr Bourne was injured as he tried to fight off the animal, called Buster, for around 30 seconds.

Injuries included puncture wounds to his right calf and thigh and one near his armpit.

Buster eventually backed away after a co-worker intervened and Mr Bourne was able to get free, Dudley Magistrates Court heard last week.

Owner David Evans admitted the guard dog had escaped from his adjacent skip hire premises, which he runs with his father.

Evans, aged 36, of Clapton Grove, Kingstanding, Birmingham, pleaded guilty to a charge of a dog causing injury on private property on June 11.

Mr David Truelove, prosecuting, said the

animal was one of two rottweilers used as guard dogs at Evans Skip Hire, Park Lane.

He said the animal was well known for escaping from the skip yard and wandering into neighbouring businesses.

The dog had entered though roller shutters at the joinery company and Mr Bourne had begun to lead the animal back through.

But Mr Truelove said the rottweiler lunged at Mr Bourne landing on his chest and shoulders with its front paws. He added that Mr Bourne was shocked by the incident

and was taken for treatment at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Mrs Hashmita Patel, defending, said: "My client accepts full responsibility for the dog moving and entering another yard."

She said that the dog is being cared for in police kennels at the moment.

Chairman of the bench Mrs Ann Lacey adjourned proceedings for reports, including on the rottweiler. The courts have the powers for dangerous dogs to be put down.

Evans will be sentenced on September 5.

Memory lane trip for Jake turns into huge collection

FROM a television set dating back to 1949 to one-armed bandits, service medals from the two World Wars, comic collections, old beer pumps and shop tills - this collection of trinkets and artefacts would rival even the best-stocked museum.

By Lee Watton

But this range of treasures make up the private collection of pensioner Jake Pearson, who is now opening up his home to give visitors a glimpse inside and raise money for a good cause.

The 70-year-old started the collection around five years ago and has since amassed 1,000 items.

He said he had started as he wanted to preserve items which would have been in use during his childhood.

But it has since expanded to include items from throughout the 20th century and before.

He is now opening up his Pensnett house for viewings, with people being asked to make a donation to the Georgina ward at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Among the items on show are mangles, bikes dating from the 1950s, a 1930s postwoman's bike and a 100-year-old cast iron range believed to have originally been installed at Himley Hall. Also included are a col-

lection of telephones from the early part of the 20th century and one of the original Motorola mobile phones from the mid-1980s, which Mr Pearson bought at an antiques fair held in Kinver.

He said: "Everything is on display and at the moment there is only me looking at it."

"Everyone who has seen the collection has been absolutely gobsmacked and I thought it would be good to open the collection to anyone who wants to see it."

"The Georgina ward at the hospital does marvellous work and I thought it would be an excellent idea to support it."

"People will be asked to put a donation into the box at the end of their visit. It is a good collection and should bring back memories for visitors."

People interested in seeing the collection are asked to call him on 07930 949337 to arrange a viewing.



Down memory lane... Jake Pearson with his collection of memorabilia which he is opening to the public

Just some of the items that will be on view to raise funds

● A 100-year-old cast iron range believed to have originally been installed at Himley Hall. Mr Pearson brought it from someone about to scrap it and restored it himself. He has used it to cook Christmas dinner in the past.

● A 1949 Alba television set. When ATV launched in 1955 people with a set needed a box set up on top in order to receive the channel. His TV still has the box. He bought it from its Old Hill owner after placing a newspaper advert.

● Service medals from the two World Wars. Among the collection is a memorial plaque from the First World War which was given to the families of soldiers who had died in battle. Mr Pearson purchased it from its owner in Bilston.

● One armed bandits. The machines in Mr Pearson's collections date from the 1930s and take old-style pennies. He purchased them from collectors in Bilston and Lye.

● One of the original Motorola mobile phones dating from the mid-1980s. It is affectionately known as "The Brick" due to its large size compared to modern phones. Mr Pearson purchased his version of the phone at an antiques fair held in Kinver.

● Also included among the exhibits are a collection of telephones dating from the early part of the 20th century. These include a brass candlestick phone and also Bakelite phones which were common sights in the 1920s and 1930s. Mr Pearson said he had gathered his collection through newspaper advertisements and they had come from all over the region.

● A collection of old comics. Among the collection is a 1924 copy of a Felix the Cat annual alongside 1950s editions of the Beano and the Dandy. There are also rare copies of comics featuring popular cowboy Roy Rogers and a first

issue of Hopalong Cassidy, featuring the fictional cowboy. Mr Pearson said he had gathered the collection from across the region.

● A paraffin iron. Believed to date from around the 1930s in contrast to modern clothes irons it was powered by paraffin. Mr Pearson said he did not know the exact date his iron was made but he believed it was from the earlier part of the 20th century.

● A collection of toy cars. Among the collection is a 1930s Formula One-style wind-up racing car which is a favourite of Mr Pearson. He was given the collection in a cardboard box some years ago.

● A statue of leaping dolphins. Originally from Holland Mr Pearson added this to his collection after purchasing it from its owner in Bilston. He said its date was uncertain but it was one of his favourite pieces.

NEWS in brief

Garden expert to give top tips

A TELEVISION gardening presenter will give a talk at Cradley Heath Flower and Gardening Club next month.

Howard Drury, who presented ITV's Gardening Time for more than 10 years, will visit the club's open gardening night on September 6.

He will be giving a talk called 50 years of gardening tips at 7.30pm at Cradley Heath Baptist Church in Corngreaves Road, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.

Doors open at 6.45pm. Call 0121 550 3331 for details.

Patients to share views with chiefs

GOVERNORS from Dudley's three hospitals will be getting the views of patients at Brierley Hill Library later this month.

They want to find out more about the public's experience of care at the borough's hospitals.

The 'Need to know more about' drop-in session will take place on August 23 between 10am and 2pm. For details about the event call 01384 321124.

Cancer charity to hold open day

AN OPEN day will be held at a Dudley cancer charity next month.

Staff and volunteers at White House Cancer Support will be welcoming visitors on September 17.

There will be the chance to tour the facilities at the White House, iEdnam Road, chat to staff and find out more about therapies.

The open day will run from 10.30am until 1pm. More details: 01384 231232.

Lunch club sets date for meeting

THE next meeting of a luncheon club that supports Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice will take place on September 13.

It meets four times a year - in March, May, September and December - to raise money for the charity. Members will be at The Granary Hotel and Restaurant, Stone, near Kidderminster. For details call Barbara Julian on 01384 295848.

Bookies backed

PLANS to open a betting shop in a former post office in Stourbridge's Wordsley Green Shopping Centre have been approved by Dudley Council.

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NEWS

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ALMOST hidden by coverage of the Olympic Games, is the news that researchers in Seattle claim that chemotherapy can actually make some cancers worse. If they are right, the implications for millions of patients, the bereaved and, of course, lawyers, are absolutely enormous.

□□□□□□□□

IS ANYONE else perturbed at the large number of press photographs from the Olympics focusing on the nether regions of young female competitors? If anyone was caught taking those sort of photographs in any setting other than a sports meeting, he'd have his collar felt pretty damn quick.

□□□□□□□□

THERE is a growing, and frankly terrifying, tide of opinion that Boris Johnson should be the next Tory leader and Prime Minister. It seems to be largely based on the triumph of the London Olympics, his defeat of Labour's Ken Livingstone in the capital's mayoral elections and the popular assumption that Boris is a bit of a laugh.

Some of those who know him better take a different view. They see a ruthlessly ambitious politician who exudes charm in carefully-measured doses to win people over. At various stages in his life and career, Boris Johnson has shown himself to have feet of clay. And while it may be possible to be the buffoonish Mayor of London with so many own-goals and skeletons in the cupboard, do we really want Boris Johnson in charge of our armed forces with his finger on Britain's nuclear button?

If that's a bit of a laugh, I'm Dr Strangelove.

□□□□□□□□

AS I waited at the kerb at a zebra crossing, a big silver 4x4 appeared about 100 yards away. I assumed he would stop. He did not. He sailed merrily across the crossing, head down. Texting.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Great Scott! Dieter half
the man he used to be

GROWING up as a youngster Scott Burton gorged on a diet of junk food, chocolate and fizzy drinks.

But when he tipped the scales at more than 20 stone the 38-year-old from Tipton decided it was high time he did something about it.

After embarking on a healthy eating and exercise regime, Scott, a radiographer at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, has now lost almost half of his body weight and is gearing up for this year's Great North Run.

"Since I was eight, I've always been big. I just used to eat," said Scott, who lives in Henlow Close.

"My mum and dad split up and my dad had his own businesses so me and my brother were left on our own quite late at night so we used to just eat junk."

He'd kick the day off with a packet of biscuits, eat fish and chips for tea, several bars of chocolate, pasties and sausage rolls all washed down with sugary fizzy drinks leaving Scott weighing 20st 6lbs at his heaviest.

It was around four years ago when his wife of 12 years Linda, a 53-year-old hospital X-ray worker decided to lose a few pounds and join Weight Watchers that he started taking a look at his own weight.

He said: "My wife went to Weight Watchers and I just followed her."

"I read all her books and just followed it on my own and I used to go to Boots and go on the scales."

In the first year Scott, who once wore a 48in waist trouser while he now wears a 34in, lost five stone.

"I was doing a bit of exercise, things like a bit of cycling and I was



Scott Burton used to weigh more than 20 stone

using my wife's Weight Watchers book to work out the points.

"The weight fell off quite quickly."

"The more weight you lose, the more satisfied and pleased you are and the more energy you have got so things don't become as difficult like walking up hills and things like that. I wasn't as sweaty and uncomfortable."

Up until 18 months ago Scott weighed 13-and-a-half stone and then last year he was chosen as one of a group of readers of the Chronicle's sister paper the Express & Star who joined fitness instructor Chris Jewkes in his attempt to get a group



Runner Scott after his dramatic weight loss

of unfit couch potatoes trained up to run the Wolverhampton Marathon.

He completed the gruelling feat in September in a time of four hours and 34 minutes. Following the effort he decided to continue running, becoming a member of Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club, which he runs with three times a week.

He can also be found pounding the streets with his Japanese Shiba Inu dog Pippa. Scott now weighs 11st 7lbs.

He added: "My life is totally different. I do lots of running, I have got lots of energy. I can get into small

clothes. I still have a chocolate bar every single day because I love chocolate, but I just try and eat more healthily and also because I do lots of running it motivates you to eat better because if you don't it has an adverse effect on your run."

On September 16 he will be taking on the Great North Run and hopes to raise £300 for deafblind charity Sense. He has chosen the charity after a member of his extended family lost his hearing after suffering from meningitis.

People can sponsor Scott online at www.justgiving.com/Scott-Burton1973 or by calling 07428 675836.

How diet changed

BEFORE:

- Between half and a whole pack of biscuits for breakfast
- Cheese and beans on toast with sausages and mushrooms at 10.30am
- Lunch from Greggs, which would typically be pasties and sausage rolls
- Fish and chips or a processed meal
- Four bars of chocolate as snacks during the day, including 200g bar of Cadbury's

AFTER:

- Breakfast of cereal or toast, ideally with skimmed milk or wholemeal bread
- Lunch of cold pasta and chicken with a Weight Watchers yoghurt
- Dinner of chicken with either a jacket potato, rice or pasta
- One regular-sized chocolate bar as a treat. Other naughty but nice snacks between meals strictly forbidden!

Old glass
waste will
be turned
into art

A PROJECT to transform glass waste into new pieces of art will be staged at Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley, as part of a festival.

The Glass Heap Challenge is being co-ordinated by artist Matt Durran and Red House curator Cathy Newbury.

It will take place as part of the International Festival of Glass and sees teams of three competing to create the artworks.

Mr Durran was inspired to create the project to raise awareness and find a practical way of dealing with waste glass and the costs of its disposal.

Progress

There will be seven teams based on site from Hungary, Barcelona, Holland, Northern Ireland, De Monfort University and a team made up of tenants from the cone itself.

They will be competing against each other and four other teams from Bulgaria, British Virgin Islands, Tasmania and the Czech Republic, who will be streaming their progress over the internet.

The teams will be working on their pieces from August 20 to 24 and members of the public will be able to see the works in progress.

The free exhibition will run until 5pm on August 27.

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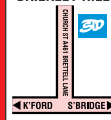
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Opening up hidden treasures

HIDDEN treasures of Dudley and Stourbridge will open to the public as part of a national event celebrating the UK's heritage.

The day, held annually by English Heritage, will be held on September 8.

Dudley Council House, in Priory Road, Dudley, will be open from 11am to 3pm.

There will be guided tours of the council chamber which will include a talk on how the authority works.

The tours will take place at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm when people can also see the mayoral badge, chain and mace. There will also be an exhibition of photographs.

Stourbridge Town Hall will be open from 10am to 3pm. Residents can see exhibits from the Black Country Society and Stourbridge Historical Society.

Visitors can enjoy performances by amateur groups from the town from 12.30pm and a guided walk of the town at 11am.

Animal event

A FREE animal-themed event for children with special educational needs is being held at Long Lane Library, Halesowen, on August 24. Book places on 01384 813041.

Flats go-ahead

A TWO-STORY block of six flats will be built on the beer garden of the closed The Broadway Inn, Broadway, Stourbridge.

Plan for retirement village will be submitted this year

PROPOSALS for a retirement village to be built on the site of a former Halesowen school are being drawn up in a bid to secure planning permission. Developer Midland Heart is forging ahead with plans for the firm's third extra care housing scheme to be built in Dudley borough.

It will be built on the demolished Cradley High School site near Homer Hill Park. Bosses say they will lodge plans for the independent living scheme with Dudley Council within the next few weeks. The developer has a contract to build five extra care projects in the borough by 2015.

Bleach attack in phone row

A TEENAGER from Dudley has been sent to a youth offenders' institution for six months after squirting bleach at a 15-year-old boy in a dispute over a mobile telephone.

Judge Robert Maxwell told Jordon Seymour, aged 19, that if the boy had not turned away the bleach could have gone into his eye causing "significant injury." He said he had no means of knowing just who was right or wrong and added: "You decided to take the law into your own hands."

Seymour of Corby Road, admitted common assault on the boy in an earlier incident when he was punched in the face and assault causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said the boy had claimed Seymour stole his mobile and his family had been paid £150 compensation. But Seymour then asked the boy to give him £80 when he met him before punching him in the face, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week. Eight days later, Seymour approached him with a bottle of bleach and squirted it at him but he turned quickly and the liquid went onto his neck.

Mr Paul Mytton, defending, said reports indicated Seymour was someone who "does not think before he acts".

Two centres, costing more than £25 million in total, have opened in Middlepark Road, Russells Hall estate, and off Whitehouse Street, Coseley.

Midland Heart's head of construction, John Beavan, confirmed an assessment of the land had been finished and plans were now being drawn up.

"We have completed preliminary investigations at the former Cradley High School site and are currently preparing to submit plans for planning approval later this year," he said.

"This is another step closer to delivering our programme in partnership with Dudley Council to provide affordable, high quality independent accommodation for the growing number of over-55s in the borough."

The centres are based around apartments where residents can live independently while still receiving any care packages that they may need.

The schemes are part of a wider transformation of adult social care in the borough, which includes the closure of council-run care homes, such as Shenstone House, Halesowen and Amblecote House, near Stourbridge, in favour of extra care housing.

Council bosses controversially shut Cradley High School four years ago, with the loss of 36 jobs.

It suffered from vandalism attacks forcing the buildings to be boarded up in an attempt to keep people off the site.



Celebrating the opening of Action Heart's first charity shop in Pensnett Road, Dudley, are fundraising executive Joy Brown and charity director Russell Tipson

First outlet is opened by charity

A CHARITY in Dudley has opened its first shop opposite the hospital where it is based.

The Action Heart outlet in Pensnett Road, Dudley, has been unveiled after months of hard work by volunteers to gather stock and fit out the premises. It will sell second-hand goods such as clothes, toys and books.

Bosses hope that the shop will boost fundraising for the charity, which supports patients with heart conditions at Russells Hall Hospital. The charity's centre, based in Block C at the hospital, helps rehabilitate up to 700 people a month after they have suffered from heart attacks or conditions.

Staff work with them to set up exercise programmes and diet plans.

More than 500 people took part in the Action Heart run in February and helped generate thousands of pounds. A 10km event will take place in Kiner on September 30.

NEWS in brief

Text alerts for council meetings

TENANTS and residents in Dudley can now sign up to receive free text or email alerts about meetings in their area. Once registered, Dudley Council will automatically send information about upcoming events.

Residents can sign-up to the service at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts or call 01384 815168.

Cabinet member Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We hope this new service will help to encourage as many people as possible to attend these meetings."

Online aid offer over mortgages

ONLINE advice and support is available for people in Dudley struggling to pay their rent or mortgage.

Dudley Council has a dedicated section on its website for people to find guidance - on who they should contact for advice.

People should first call Dudley Council Plus, on 0300 555 2345 and ask for a housing options assessment or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/housing

Boat powers on

A £1.3 million powerboat set for an ambitious round-the-world record attempt is another step closer to completion. The fuel tanks have been fitted, crew accommodation finished and toilets and showers installed on the Accomplish More, which is being built in at Mickelwrights, Thorngate Trading Estate, Brierley Hill.

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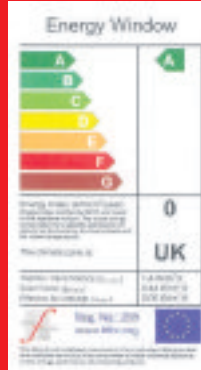
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NEWS

Indecent children images found on man's computer

A FATHER-OF-TWO from Hale-sowen found to have 567 indecent images of children on his computer has been spared jail.

Police were alerted by the father of a 13-year-old girl who was concerned by the content of communications she had with someone via a PlayStation gaming network, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Inquiries led to 43-year-old Ronald Skett, whose home was raided. A memory stick and two computer towers were seized.

The equipment showed that he had been downloading indecent images of children aged between two and 14.

Plastic fabricator Skett also admitted having communications "of a sexual nature" via the internet with people who claimed to be 14, the court heard.

Skett, of The Rookery, admitted eight charges of making indecent images and seven of possessing the images and was given a three-year supervised community order on condition that he comply with the community sex offender programme.

He was made the subject of a sex offenders prevention order for 10 years, put on the Sex Offenders Register for five years and banned from working with children.

Plans submitted for supermarket scheme

PLANS for a multi-million pound supermarket, shops and multi-storey car park in the heart of Dudley have gone to the council, paving the way for the town's transformation. The scheme aims to redevelop largely derelict land to the east of Hall Street and north of Duncan Edwards Way, including the empty Cavendish House.

Developer Avenbury said it had submitted outline plans for the Porters Field scheme to Dudley Council. If backed, it said it would begin working on detailed designs soon. Under present plans, Trindle Road would be re-routed to run parallel with the bypass road, creating space for the scheme.

Uniform sale to help funds



Helen Bryan, Yvonne Brookes and Angela Petherbridge with some of the items that will be on sale at St John's Church Hall

PARENTS hoping to snap up school uniform items at a snip before the new term are invited to have a rummage at a one-day sale.

The Halesowen-based Black Country Foodbank is organising the sale at the town's St John's Church Hall, High Street on August 23 from 11am to 3pm.

Hundreds of items of school uniform - mainly for primary age children - will be on offer for 50p.

Primary schools have donated

second-hand pieces of uniform for the event.

All proceeds will go Foodbank, which supports vulnerable people. Call 0121 448 8184 for details.

Margot James, MP for Stourbridge, called on the public to get behind the charity when she visited its distribution centre in Halesowen. As part of the visit, Miss James met volunteers and discussed the food bank's work with the Dudley Group of Hospitals.

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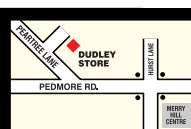
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LETTERS

Poor planning persecutes drivers

I SIGHED at the measures taken (parking restrictions on surrounding roads) to address the parking issues around Russell's Hall Hospital.

It is laughingly presented as a solution. As a regular visitor who also lives locally and has had to use my car and the car park, I feel it is the motorist who is being persecuted for a problem caused by poor planning and foresight.

The car park is usually full already, despite a steady stream of buses and

taxis entering the site. The next thing we will have is an update on how much missed appointments are costing the NHS.

Nothing is ever said about patients spending hours sitting in waiting rooms while parking charges grow.

Councils, governments and businesses see the motorist as the bottomless money pit and cash cow. But I, for one, will not pay additionally for public transport when I have invested so

much in the running of my car. What next I wonder?

Perhaps they will make Pensnett High Street and Kingswinford Road into toll roads? Cyclists paying to lock their bikes? A turnstile at the entrance to the hospital so anyone who did manage to walk can get caught too?

Oh, no! What have I said?

R GORTON
Thames Close
Pensnett

No benefits until you have paid in

I AM sure that millions of people would agree with the sentiments of Mr Sargeant, Dudley, Halesowen Chronicle, July 26 "Older people have done their fair share".

As for suggesting more penalties for pensioners, and others who have contributed to the system, the solution is simple: no benefits until you have paid into the system for five years, and then to receive benefits 'proportionate' to what you have paid in.

That would stop immigrants, the workshy and those who 'breed for a living' claiming money to which they are not entitled.

In the majority of cases these are public funds created by today's older people it is now suggested Government should penalise.

Older people have, and still are, shouldering more than their fair share of spending cuts.

Remember, it is they who 'built the public nest-egg' now being frittered away.

MR H S COOK
Moorfield Drive
Halesowen

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Advice for drivers with blue badges

REGARDING the extortionate car park fees at Russell's Hall Hospital, there should be free car parking within the hospital car park for all blue badge holders. There is free parking at all the other hospitals in the area for blue badge holders, so why not at Russell's Hall?

The local authority has painted yellow stripes on the road kerbs on the main Kingswinford Road opposite the hospital, it is noted that traffic penalty notices are now being put onto the windshields of the blue badge holders cars, but they continue to park after several weeks of the enforcement coming in.

Doesn't this tell the local authority something?

There should be a notice displayed on this stretch of road informing people with blue badges that they can no longer park where there are yellow stripes painted on the kerb. They obviously do not appreciate this.

I would simply say to the blue badge holders: park on the opposite side of the road there are double yellow lines but no yellow stripes on the road kerbs which should allow them to park there provided they display their blue badge.

They won't have to cross the busy main road, either, if they park on that side.

BOB WHITEHOUSE
Wartell Bank, Kingswinford

What waste of money

THE proposals for a mosque on land in Hall Street, Dudley, were rejected in a hearing in high court. The agreement, contract, call it what you will, was signed by Dudley Council and DMA with the buyback clause as part of said agreement. The many thousands of pounds wasted would have been welcomed by the friends of Dudley Hippodrome.

JOHN PERKINS
Wood Road
Lower Gornal
Dudley

Thanks so much

I WANT to thank the very kind person who handed in my purse at Iceland, Sedgley, Tuesday August 7. Although there was just a small amount of money, it meant so much for me, having to catch buses. Thanks so much once again, I really appreciate it.

MRS L LLOYD
Chase Road
Lower Gornal

You're a treasure

MY thanks to the person who handed my mom's phone to the bus driver on July 29 on the X96 to Merry Hill you are a treasure.

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NEWS

Manor Abbey goes

A HISTORIC farmhouse set in the grounds of a scheduled ancient monument has gone on the market for £1.5 million.

Manor Abbey Farm, which is built in the ruins of Halesowen Abbey, is up for sale along with 242 acres of surrounding land.

It has been split into seven separate lots but potential buyers also have the opportunity to purchase the site has a whole if they wish.

The first lot, which has the price of £1.5 million, is for the farmhouse, a historic infirmary building and a range of traditional brick and tile barns.

Standing remains of the abbey, which dates back to 1215, are incorporated into the walls of the farm building. The north barn dates to around 1672 with the rest of the firm built in the 19th century.

There is planning permission in place to create six homes and visitor facilities at the barns but no work has been carried out.

Divided

A three bedroom cottage on the site is also available £395,000.

The remaining lots are for various acres of land ranging from smaller parcels of five acres, for £60,000, to 77 acres for £475,000.

Staff from Fisher German John Sanders estate agents, who are overseeing the sale, said the site had been on the market for a short time.

They said the current owner had decided to move on.

People can view the site by calling 01527 575525.

Spokeswoman for the agents, Kittie Ford, said: "The manor house and its surrounding lands have gone on the market."

"The sale has been divided into separate lots but anyone who would be interested in buying the site as a whole would be given the chance to do so."

"This is an amazing site."

Hales Owen Abbey Trust, which has battled to save historic aspects of the



Manor Abbey Farm which has gone on the market for £1.5 million



The yard at Manor Abbey Farm with the ruins in the background

site for years, said while it was interested in taking on the site it did not have the funds available.

Members said they believed it was the "last chance" to preserve the whole site as if it was divided up it would lose its sense of character.

The group is now in talks with English Heritage and Dudley Council

for suggestions and in the hope of interesting the organisations to purchase the site.

Spokesman Mick Freer said: "We have a lot of ideas on how the site could be developed into a major tourist attraction."

"However in the end it comes down to the money. We simply haven't the

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NEWS

on sale for £1.5m



The drawing room at Manor Abbey Farm



The large farmhouse kitchen



The master bedroom at Manor Abbey Farm



The ensuite bathroom of the master bedroom

money to purchase the site. If there was more time we could apply for grants or lottery funding but the site is on the market so there simply is not an opportunity to do that.

"We are talking to English Heritage and Dudley Council on any options which may be available."

"It is that or a benefactor coming

forward. We really do think this will be the last chance to preserve the whole site."

"If it is purchased as separate lots the site will lose its sense of unity as different owners would do different things."

"If we cannot find a way of purchasing the site we will continue to do what

we have done and work with the new owners to treat the site sympathetically and build upon and improve present public access arrangements and interpretation of the entire site."

The mediaeval site functioned as a working abbey until 1538 during the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII.

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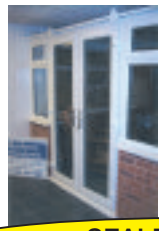
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Kidderminster signal box is a BR(WR) 1953 design



Bloxwich signal box complete with its white-on-maroon enamel sign



Wolverhampton signal box first opened on August 16, 1965

Changes point to end of the ageing signal box

UP TO 38 signal boxes are to close across the Black Country and Staffordshire as part of a six-year programme set to bring the ageing system into the 21st century.

The modernisation plan will cover 415 miles of track and will be launched in October with the Stourbridge to Hartlebury line, resulting in the closure of Blakedown, Kidderminster, Hartlebury and Stourbridge signal boxes.

Network Rail, which is behind the move, says the scheme will mean shorter delays in the event of breakdowns, saving the taxpayer bil-

lions of pounds each year. No jobs will be cut although around 80 posts locally will be lost through non-replacement and natural wastage. The aim is to centralise all signalling at a base in Saltley, Birmingham, using a visual display based control system.

The Walsall, Bescot and Cannock track will be brought into line in August 2013 with the closure of Walsall, Bescot, Bloxwich, Hednesford and Brereton Sidings signal boxes.

The next year the Wolverhampton signal box will be closed, followed by Lichfield and the two signal boxes at Stafford in 2015.

Work on the cross-city and South Stafford-

shire line will start in 2016, as will the transfer of services at the New Street Station signal box, expected to take up to two years.

The Birmingham Moor Street to London Marylebone line, which is included in the West Midlands area, will be moved over in 2024-25.

Network Rail spokesman Keith Lumley said: "With fewer signal boxes, there will be fewer signallers needed to talk to each other about what is happening. Instead operators will be able to see on a screen where the problem is and where trains can be diverted." The company

said some 19th century signal boxes, with mechanical levers, were listed and would remain. Nationally more than 800 boxes will be replaced by 14 new signalling centres.

The first signal box is believed to have been created in 1844 by the London and Croydon Railway. The ones that are due to close each have their own individual story to tell.

For example, in April last year, Bloxwich signal box in Willenhall Lane retained its British Railways London Midland Region white-on-maroon enamel sign.

Hednesford still reverses some passenger trains. They do not pass the signal box itself -

the driver has to confirm by phone to the signaller that his train is complete, before the return journey to Birmingham can be signalled.

Kidderminster is a BR(WR) 1953 design and had its windows refurbished a few years ago. Kidderminster Junction signal box was replaced by a lever frame in 1937 which then closed in 1973 and was moved to Arley Station.

Walsall had a new signal box in 1966 as part of resignalling work along the line. It controlled signalling over a six-mile stretch, as far as the Crescent signalbox in Willenhall, to Great Barr signal box via Bescot.



Hednesford Station still reverses some passenger trains



The Stourbridge Junction signal box uses Track Circuit Block



Brereton Sidings signal box at the south end of the Rugeley Town station

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NEWS

Talks planned to help bolster gymnastic club

CRUNCH talks are being held with council bosses in a bid to secure the future of a Halesowen gymnastics club that started an Olympic medallist on his road to glory.

The Earls Gymnastics Club is struggling to make ends meet. It receives no funding from Dudley Council or sports bodies but club chairman John Caulwell is meeting council officers to discuss what can be done. Kristian Thomas, of Wednesfield, trains at the club two or three times a week and scooped bronze in the team event at London 2012.

Mr Caulwell said: "We are in discussions with Dudley Council about any ways they can help us out. The Olympics have given us some common ground to work on in the hope they will be able to assist."

"The council needs to ask whether it wants the legacy of London 2012 to be that an Olympic medallist-producing club has to close down."

"We are not looking for millions and it would be very said if we went under when we are just asking for a few thousand pounds." The club, which has about 400 members, pays £28,500 a year in rent to Earls High School.

The council used to pay to run the club but withdrew funding in 2000. Parachute payments to help it keep going stopped in 2007. Cabinet member Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "The club is one of the borough's most prized sporting groups."

"Although they are a privately run group, we are in discussions to help them to apply for external funding where possible to help them continue the excellent work they do."

More space for parking

MORE car parking will be made available at a primary school in Stourbridge. Ham Dingle, Old Hame Lane, Pedmore, has won planning permission to create the spaces. The school says many cars are having to park on footpaths and grassed areas.

Classic car charity convoy



Paige Flavell-Wood, left, with fellow West Mids Minis Club members

MINI enthusiasts are revving up their engines for a 280-mile journey to Land's End to raise money for charity. Ten of the classic cars will be driven along the motorway in convoy from Dudley towards Penance on Sunday.

The drivers, all members of West Mids Minis club, will not only be catching the eye with their vehicles, but also their fancy dress. Marilyn Monroe, JFK and Power Rangers are among the characters they will

be dressing up as. The drive is being held to raise cash for Midlands Air Ambulance after it came to the aid of organiser Paige Flavell-Wood's brother Ryan three years ago.

Mr Flavell was involved in a car crash in Dunley, near Stourport, in 2009 when the ambulance landed to help the 23-year-old. Miss Flavell-Wood, aged 20, of Highbridge Road, Netherton, said: "We want to do something to repay the service for the help they gave to my family."

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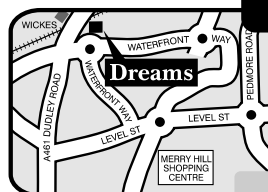


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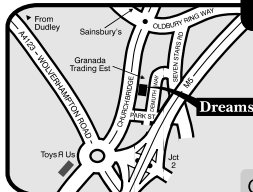
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NEWS

Battle launched to save old Sons of Rest centre

CAMPAIGNERS have vowed to fight to save a former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen from being sold by council chiefs.

More than 80 residents have signed a petition calling for the site to remain open to the community.

A public meeting was held at Huntingtree pub in Alexandra Road on Monday where people said they feared the building, which was most recently used as a day centre, would be demolished to make way for housing.

But they want to ensure it can continue to be used by the community.

The land on which it was built was donated to the town in 1947 by Halesowen Mayor Lionel Rose.

The building, on land between Alexandra Road and Wall Well, was previously home to Huntingtree Seniors Leisure Centre but this was closed last year by Dudley Council.

The authority wants to sell off the Sons of Rest site, which was constructed in 1948, as it is deemed surplus to requirements. It was one of five in the Halesowen area built to be used by war veterans.

Councillor Donella Russell, who is leading the campaign to save the building, has called for a rethink as she believes the centre can be used by resi-



For sale - Halesowen's former Sons of Rest building

dents. She urged residents to help her create a business plan to convince the council there were enough people to use the building.

"The building is a sanctuary for people who served in the war and their families," she said.

"More than ever this needs to be saved not just for its history but for the current members of the armed services. It's a lovely building that has so many memories for the residents in Halesowen."

Resident John Payne, who attended

the meeting, said: "We need to find as many community groups who would be interested in using the building as possible."

The next meeting will be on September 18. Anyone interested in using the building can call Councillor Russell on 07887 610717.

Dudley Council's director of corporate resources Philip Tart said: "While marketing the property we are also exploring whether any other community use can be found for the building."

New housing party time Zoo lessons for young

DIGNITARIES and officials have marked the completion of a multi-million pound project to build council homes in Dudley. New residents also joined in to celebrate the end of the housing scheme after moving in over the past few months. In total, 72 council homes have been built after Dudley Council received a £4.3m government grant.

To mark the completion, the three main contractors, Lovell, Mansell and PHM organised a joint celebration at one of the main developments, the 22-home The Wicklets, off Norwood Road, Brierley Hill. The council's construction apprentices were given work experience opportunities.

CLOSE encounters of the furry kind are the order of the day at Dudley Zoo's newly-launched Summer Academy. It offers youngsters a chance to go wild with a packed week of animal adventures. From August 20 to 24, 11 to 15-year-olds can take part in Go Wild Rangers where they will discover more about lemur and make an enrichment toy for this endangered species. Zoo presenter Caroline Howard said: "Rangers will have the opportunity to see, touch and hear some of the most incredible creatures on earth and also learn how we look after our most popular species." For further details call 0844 474 2272.

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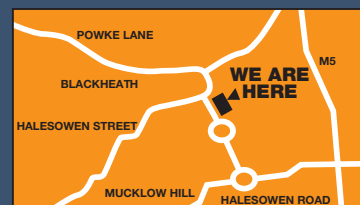
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CLUB NEWS

Twin visit to mark 90 years

THE ROTARY CLUB OF STOURBRIDGE

JULY, as usual, was a busy month with a number of functions for members and wives to enjoy as well as the changeover of presidents.

A party from the twinned club in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, visited to help mark the Stourbridge club's 90th birthday.

Following Chris Fonteyn's very successful presidential year, the new incumbent John Yeates was inducted.

Days before, a party of members, wives and friends attended a church service at St Thomas's Church led by fellow Rotarian Rev Ron Curtis, before adjourning to John and Mary's house to enjoy their hospitality.

President John said he planned to continue the good work of last year's president and in addition to many local charities, he proposed to support Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK Stem Cell Research and Cancer Research.

On July 11, the club received a visit from District Governor Steve Cartwright.

The following week Dee Whittle from the National Trust gave an interesting and inspiring talk on the work of the charity in general and more particularly, the work that she has been involved in as Project Leader for the Green Academies Project.

On July 25, speaker Mary Stafford, an agricultural economist, gave a talk on the work of the "Send a Cow" charity.

Past president hands out cheque to hospice



Jerry Hobbs, of Compton Hospice, receives a cheque from Pam Garrington

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

PAST President of the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgley & Wombourne Mrs Pam Garrington presented a cheque for Compton Hospice to Mr Jerry Hobbs, one of the board of trustees

Club's alternative Games

GETTING into the London 2012 spirit, Kidderminster Soroptimists held their own alternative Olympics when 50 or so members, family and friends gathered in Far Forest for a range of games.

To a rousing chorus of 'Chariots of Fire', president Hilary Thompson declared the Games open with four 'national' teams representing GB, Germany, Zimbabwe

KIDDERMINSTER SOROPTIMISTS

and a special team Cornwall. The Olympic Flame was lit taking the form of five different coloured garden flares. There was fierce competition for the golf, petanque and croquet with a particularly lively giant garden Jenga contest. A break for

refreshments and ice creams was followed by pistol and arrow shooting through hoops - aiming 'velcroed' balls at a target - and bagel discus throwing.

The final race with a twist was balancing a plastic plate on one's head without dropping it. Each winning team was presented with a gold medal, followed by an afternoon tea picnic.

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Concerns over young drinkers

POLICE are stepping up pa-trols in Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park after complaints of under-age drinking.

Groups of youngsters have been seen spotted with alcohol in the park. Officers are now on the look out for the gangs and will confiscate bottle or cans from anyone caught drinking under-age. Regular patrols are continuing through the school holidays especially in the evenings. There have also been complaints about the bowling green being used as a football pitch and damage to the handstand.

Meanwhile, additional patrols are being carried out in Swanpool Park after reports of groups of young people causing a nuisance on mopeds. An update will be given at the next Pact meeting for the Norton neighbourhood team on September 10 at Gimmill Primary School, from 7pm.

Rotarians step up the pace for good causes with first fun run

HALESOWEN will host its first road fun run next month in what organisers hope will boost the town and bring in much needed cash for good causes.

The charity 5k run will take place on September 16. Organisers from Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club have appealed for residents and businesses to back the event.

Club members have supported many regional and national charities over the years and officials say cash generated will all go to good causes.

Rotarian and organiser Alan Bowler said the excitement was building as final preparations are

put in place. "We believe the fun run can be very positive not only for Halesowen but the surrounding areas," he said. "Times are tough for people at the moment but we think this can give the town, charities and everyone a boost."

People can sign up by filling out an application form at www.halesowenrotaryfunrun.org where there are also details for business sponsorship.

The event starts at 9.30am and will take joggers around mmarsalled town centre streets.

Roads will remain open on the day, to minimise disruption to trade, but lane closures will be in place to ensure safety. The route will start and finish in Somers Square. It will take runners out

into Rumbow before going along the A458 New Road and Whitehall Road.

They will then head down the A459 Bromsgrove Road and Queensway before heading back down Hagley Road and High Street and through Somers Square and round for a second lap.

Mr Bowler said he hopes townsfolk will also support the event by turning out to cheer on the joggers as they pass by. It costs £8 for adults aged over 16 to enter, £4 for children and £15 for a family of four (two adults, two children).

A number of businesses in the area including Swedish steel firm Sandvik and car dealer Halesowen Audi have backed the event.

Festival is dream date for actors

A THEATRE group is getting ready to tread the boards at the world's largest arts festival.

Side by Side Theatre Company will be taking their latest production, Dream On, to the Edinburgh Fringe this month for a week.

The show, which is a colourful take on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, is performed by a cast of actors with learning disabilities. The company will perform five shows at a venue called Paradise. Dream On has been composed by Stourbridge College students and sets have been constructed by learning disabled artists from the Cradley-based Oaks Project.

Director Susan Wallin said, "We are so excited to be heading to the world's largest theatre festival."

"Side by Side actors and dancers have worked harder than ever to stage this challenging production."

Venue raises cash for injured heroes



Front from left Troop Aid chairman Al Sutton with Help for Heroes co-ordinator Ken Cook. Centre from left, Michaela Hickman, Mayor Melvyn Mottram and Lesley Willetts. Back from left, veterans Billy Cooper, Jack Baker, and Bernard Guest

A RESTAURANT and function room has raised more than £1,000 to be split between two charities which support soldiers injured in the line of duty.

Staff from The Brambles, Priory Road, Dudley, have handed over £510 to both Help for Heroes and Troop Aid following a fundraising evening.

The event, in April, was attended by more than 100 people with cash being raised through tickets and raffles.

Dudley Mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram visited staff at the venue to collect

the donations. Ex-service-men were also there for the event.

It was organised by Lesley Willetts, who runs the venue, and functions manager Michaela Hickman.

Lesley said: "We were delighted to be able to raise this amount of money for both of the charities. Some of these soldiers return from duty with injuries which we can just not imagine."

"They have been fighting on the frontline for us."

"It is important we support them in whatever way we can."

Cash-crisis scouts launch help appeal

A SCOUT group that has served generations of children over the past nine decades is suffering a cash crisis, its leader has revealed, with its 1960s base urgently needing a revamp. The 7th Dudley Scout Group has launched an appeal for £30,000 to refurbish its Kate Hill headquarters.

The group is one of the last remaining organisations in the centre of the town after similar groups were forced to fold. Group leader Kevin Hughes said the organisation was still going strong with a waiting list of youngsters wanting to join. But he said crucial repairs and maintenance are needed to the scout hut to ensure it is fit for purpose in the years to come.

Transform

Mr Hughes said he is reluctant to put up weekly subs in order to cover the costs of works due to the tough times faced by families in the area and he has asked local companies and traders to step in and see if they can help them transform the headquarters.

Urgent repairs are needed to the flooring. The roof needs an overhaul and rotting window frames need to be replaced. The group has joined up to a funding scheme to help generate cash called the Small Charity Car Draw with people taking part get the chance to win a Kia Picanto.

The group will receive 92 per cent of every £2 ticket sold. To enter visit www.smallcharitycardraw.org and find 7th Dudley Scout Group. People are asked to email dudleyscouts@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.7thdudleyscouts.btck.co.uk if they can offer support.

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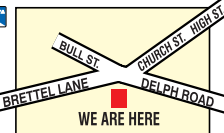
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NEWS

By George! Couple's garden a winner

GREEN-FINGERED residents at a mobile home park wowed judges in a competition to find the best-kept gardens on site.

The event is held annually at Hinksford Mobile Home Park, Hinksford Lane, Wall Heath, with residents working throughout the year to get gardens looking their best.

Prizes were awarded in categories such as best overall garden, best hanging basket and the most popular feature.

Devoted

Judges carefully consider each garden around the park before making their decision.

Prizes were presented to successful residents in a marquee set up at the park.

And the award for the best overall garden went to residents George and Jenny Allen.

They received a glass bowl and a prize of £100.

Mrs Allen, a 64-year-old auxiliary nurse at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, said her 72-year-old husband devoted many hours to making the garden look its best.



Garden competition winners, George and Jenny Allen, with, at the back site warden, Sam Foster and with runners-up Jack and Marlene Holmes

Tyson killer pleads with family for its forgiveness

A MAN who stabbed a much-loved dog to death in Lower Gornal has pleaded with the pet's owners for forgiveness from his prison cell – and says he should have been jailed for longer.

Simon Follis, aged 38, has written an open letter to Wayne Bird and his family.

Follis was jailed for 29 months in June after attacking the dog outside his home in Abbey Street, while rowing with owner Mr Bird. The 12-year-old pet, Tyson, later died from convulsions at a vet's practice. The hand-written, two-page letter, which bears a Winslow Green Prison stamp, was sent directly to the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star.

It says: "I am so dreadfully sorry for the pain and anguish I have caused by brutally slaying Mr Wayne Bird's dog, Tyson. I am deeply saddened and very remorseful for the fact that I only received 29 months for Tyson's death. It was a very serious and terribly wrong thing to have done. Mr Bird and Tyson used to be close friends of mine.



Tyson, who was stabbed to death

"I cannot turn back the hands of time to replace Tyson nor can I say that in any way I can repay the deed. I feel as though justice wasn't done."

Follis said he has a "guilty conscience" that would stay with him for the rest of his life and added: "I can't even sleep properly for the terrible dreams.

"Tyson was a loved and most lovable companion to Mr Bird and his family and I hope you will find it in

your heart to print this written apology. I know not the address of Mr Bird nor anyone to contact him and his family and say a real, heartfelt sorry for what I have done."

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Follis and Mr Bird had been friends but had fallen out in recent years. Flowers were laid outside the nearby Darby & Joan club after the dog's death in February and a plaque has since been erected in its memory.

Mr Bird's aunt, Rose Beedles, said she believed Follis "deserves a second chance" but added that Tyson's "horrific" death would never be forgotten. Mrs Beedles, who has helped look after Mr Bird since he was a child, said: "Life is too short to bear grudges. They can eat you up inside and we have had too much heartache recently to dwell on this. Everyone should be given a second chance and if he is truly sorry then we can accept this and move on."

"We will never, ever forget Tyson and what happened to him was horrific but we will always have our memories. There are people worse off in the world than us."

In his letter, Follis claimed he was taking anger management classes.

Mother's call over tragedy

THE mother of a teenager who drowned at a quarry lake has made an emotional plea for the site to be sealed.

Paulina Zacarias, aged 40, visited the Blue Lagoon pool, Himley last week for the first time since 15-year-old Augusto died on July 25.

She and her husband Pedro, 44, were joined by a dozen friends outside the road leading to the quarry to call for it to be closed off.

They waved banners, blew whistles and chanted 'close the quarry' for more than an hour last Friday.

Mrs Zacarias, who moved with her family to Sedgeley this year from Portugal, said: "Someone must please close the quarry off so no-one else gets hurt. Until they close it, youngsters will always find their way inside and put their lives at risk."

"I'm begging someone to close the site down."

Mrs Zacarias, who has a one-year-old son, said: "I'm no longer myself, I've almost lost the will to live – everything has changed."

COMPETITION

Bella! Your chance to win Italian look



Leekes' Italian Studio has a range of contemporary and modern leather sofas

LEEKES of Bilston is offering one lucky winner the chance to win a 'bella' Italian makeover for their home worth £500, to mark the launch of its new Italian Studio.

The family-owned home department store launched its 'Italian Living' collection at its destination store on Great Bridge Road this month.

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Empty shops shake-up bid to win new business

Stroll led to diamond day



Doreen and Thomas Carter celebrate their wedding anniversary

A BRIERLEY Hill couple who first caught each other's eye as they walked through a town are celebrating 60 years of wedded bliss. Doreen and Thomas Carter courted for five years before tying the knot at Moor Lane Methodist Church, Brierley Hill, on August 2, 1952.

Mrs Carter, aged 80, said: "Me and my sister were going for a walk in Wordsley and we met Tom and his mate. We got talking and it went from there." Mr Carter, 83, was a glassblower at the former Dennis Glass Works, near Stourbridge, while Mrs Carter worked at a factory making boxes for batteries until shortly after they were married.

The couple, who have two sons, Paul and Michael, and a daughter Ann, were the guests of honour at a family party. They have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



The couple's wedding day

EMPTY shops are to be revamped in a bid to attract new businesses to Dudley.

Council bosses say they want to give the town a boost after it missed out on funding from retail guru Mary Portas' pilot scheme. They are now drawing up plans to attract investment and encourage entrepreneurs to start up businesses in what has been described as the worst medium-sized town in the country for empty shops. And they said a specialist Sunday market could still be introduced.

Regeneration chief Councillor Shaikat Ali said that they were looking at "incentives" to bring companies to the town where 35 per cent of the shops are not occupied.

Frontages of vacant shops could be refurbished so less work would need to be done when they are taken over, he said.

He said he wants to work with landlords in the town to come up with ideas.

The council will be looking to create schemes to promote new young enterprise in the town by working with Dudley College.

It will also meet with market traders to look at introducing a specialist market selling good such as continental foods, which was one of the main proposals in the original bid for the £100,000 funding.

Councillor Ali added: "We are clearly very disappointed not to have been selected despite what we feel was a very good bid which incorporated many components of other bids which have succeeded."

"We will continue to monitor any potential future funding options but we have built a strong local partnership around this work and are confident that we can bring forward many elements of our programme despite this disappointment."

Budget store is opened

BUDGET shops chain 99p Stores has opened a branch in Brierley Hill this weekend, creating 35 jobs. It has taken over the former Peacocks store at the Moor Centre, which has stood empty for six months since the clothing chain went into administration.

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NEWS

Packaging trail led to £300 fly-tipping fine

A BUSINESS has been fined £300 for fly-tipping near Halesowen, after investigators followed a trail of evidence 70 miles to Milton Keynes and back.

In April, traders in Rubery High Street reported to the council that a load of commercial rubbish had been dumped at the back of the shops there.

Despite nothing in the rubbish that would appear to identify the culprit, or any witnesses to the dumping, Bromsgrove District Council community safety enforcement officers traced the source through packaging among the waste.

Model and batch numbers on the packaging were traced to the manufacturer in Milton Keynes, which was able to confirm the supplier to whom the goods had been sold.

The supplier then identified who had received the goods later, which after further investigation led to a fixed penalty notice being issued to a Solihull-based business in June.

The business has not been named by the council as it accepted responsibility and paid the £300 fine last week.

Community safety enforcement officer Felicity Pate said: "We only had a shred of evidence but it was enough. Residents who report fly tips rightly expect us to get results."

Marlene offers support

PLENTY of laughs are promised when Black Country comedienne Marlene is guest speaker at a meeting of Halesowen Cancer Support Group next Wednesday. The group meets fortnightly at 2pm in the United Church, Hagley Road, Halesowen, and is free for anyone affected by cancer. The group gives people a chance to meet other people who understand what it is like to be affected by cancer and share experiences with each other. For more information call Chris Barron at White House Cancer Support on 01384 231232.

Taxi firm is all heart



Cradley Heath fire crew commander Paul Clarke shows shopper Ann Rock how the equipment works

A TAXI firm has taken charge of a potentially life-saving piece of equipment on behalf of residents.

Brookfleet Cars, in Bassano Road, Blackheath, is now home to a defibrillator – used to restart someone's heart when they suffer a cardiac arrest.

Firefighters worked with West Midlands ambulance staff to bring in the device and spent time at Sainsbury's in Halesowen Street showing how it is used.

First

Ben Wade, from Brookfleet Cars, said: "When we were asked if we could house the defibrillator, we obviously said yes."

"It made sense because we're open 24/7, are in the middle of the town and everyone knows us."

West Midlands ambulance spokesman Emma Wilkins said: "Blackheath town centre is now home to the first community defibrillator in the Black Country which is great news for locals and something to be really proud of."

Advertisement

A working union between two dental professionals is helping to bring about life-changing outcomes. Spritely Joyce was resigned to living with a crooked smile – until she became one of their patients.

Why Joyce's warm smile really is picture perfect

PEOPLE say a picture is worth more than a thousands words. And for spritely Joyce, the old adage could not be more true.

Smiling confidently, the 76-year-old is happy to face the camera, but until recently "not even my husband could take my picture," she says.

A mysterious childhood accident, of which she has no recollection, left her with a "lopsided smile" and subsequent adult issues with her teeth added to the problem.

Not least was a memorable incident which resulted in one of her front teeth being broken in two.

The shorthand secretary/PA was persuaded by a work colleague to ask her dentist for denture. "What a mistake," she says. "I wish I had never had a denture because that's when my troubles began."

Joyce's dentist didn't offer another option – "but it was a long time ago," she recalls.

The natural ageing process was unkind to Joyce too. She was diagnosed with osteoporosis and it affected the bone density in her jaw and gradually her teeth became mobile.

"My teeth were loose, I had sores from my denture plate and my twisted smile made me feel uncomfortable and embarrassed."

"Over the years I have spent a fortune on dentures, but none of them helped me. There was no long-term solution."



Transformation

"I couldn't eat properly, food would get trapped under the lower denture all the time and I was afraid to cough and afraid to laugh in case the denture came out."

Joyce was resigned to "going through life without a normal smile."

She adds: "I was convinced I had a plate in my lower jaw and it was only recently when I had dental X-rays I knew I hadn't."

A feature in her local weekly newspaper highlighting the work of dentist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) proved a turning point.

Fortunate

Mr Burchell of the Denture Clinic, which is based at the Parkdale Dental Clinic on Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton and in North Street, Dudley, said: "Although Joyce had lost her teeth, she was fortunate enough to

have enough bone density to sustain two lower jaw implants to secure an implant-retained denture. It was the best clinical route to be sure of dealing with her long-standing stabilisation issues."

She was referred to Parkdale implantologist and principal Jonathon Pugh, BDS MSc, who carried out the surgery. Joyce adds: "I never dreamed the process could cure my twisted smile – but it has."

"My smile is now totally normal and I can eat whatever I want."

"Before, I would have to choose something soft off the menu. I use to long for a steak and to bite into an apple. Now it's no problem at all."

Her praise for Mr Pugh is unbridled: "He's king," she says, "and Steve... I cannot speak highly enough of what he's done for me. I've already got in mind to have implants for my upper denture."

Denture Clinic

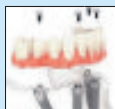
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Parkdale Dental Clinic

All on 4 is now here

ONE of the most advanced options for denture wearers is available in Wolverhampton and Dudley. An implant system called All on 4 offers a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a day.



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Traditional natural look

THE Denture Clinic has found satisfied customers from as far away as Spain. Its hand-crafted dentures, made on the premises, are known for their natural look. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

Call us for details

The suction solution

DENTURES which use suction to stay in place are helping to resolve common stability problems. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated devices and can sometimes provide another option to traditional or implant-retained dentures.

Call us for details

What's On! Halesowen

Singing duos will entertain at club

TWO singing duos will be bringing their shows to a club in the heart of Cradley this weekend.

The Laurels Club, in Windmill Hill, is hosting the concerts as part of its regular line-up of live acts.

This Saturday singing couple PR Duo, otherwise known as Paul and Rachel, will be making their first appearance at the Laurels after being regulars on the club scene in the area.

The weekly Free and Easy night will return on Sunday hosted by singers Mel and Bridget. Call 0121 602 1812 or visit www.the-laurels.webeden.co.uk

Arts festival has 100 pieces to see

AN arts festival showcasing more than 100 pieces of work will be taking place in Halesowen this week.

The event at Hurst Green Methodist Church in Narrow Lane, Halesowen, is being staged by the Black Country Artists.

Each of its 25 members will display at least four pieces at the exhibition, which runs until Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

A variety of scenes capturing wildlife and landmarks from around the town will feature.

Salsa excitement

The sounds and sights of Cuba come to a Halesowen nightclub for a night of salsa dancing this week. Classes will be held at Benjamin's, in Birmingham Street, Halesowen, this Wednesday at 8pm.

Shakespeare gets a Catalan twist in Rep's Forests drama

AN INNOVATIVE programme is planned for Birmingham Rep, as it prepares to move back to its revamped home.

The Rep has been undergoing a transformation as part of a multi-million redevelopment at Centenary Square building an iconic new library for the city.

A new purpose-built 300-seat auditorium will be opened in 2013. There will also be a studio theatre, rehearsal rooms, set-building facilities and dressing rooms.

The Rep has been taking productions to venues in and around the city during the past year.

Comic triple bill at Glee

COMEDIAN John Fothergill is at Birmingham comedy venue The Glee Club tonight (Thursday), tomorrow and Saturday night, with support from Gary Delaney and Karl Spain.

Fothergill is a lively Geordie. It was while working as a casual scenery mover at a theatre that he found his true calling. Meanwhile, Delaney is a master of razor sharp one-liners while Spain found comedy after failing to become a model.

On August 23 TV comic Zoe Lyons will play a gig at the Hurst Street venue. See www.glee.co.uk

It's autumn programme will start with Forests, at The Old Rep, Station Street, from August 31 to September 15.

It is a radical interpretation of Shakespeare bringing together forest scenes from many of his plays.

It will feature a UK-Catalan cast and is directed by controversial Barcelona-based director Calixto Bieito.

Our Country's Gold by Timberlake Wertenbaker will be at the same venue from September 25-29 and Alan Sillitoe's The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner from October 2-6. Sean O'Casey's The Plough and The Stars will be staged from October 9 to 31.

For details see the www.birmingham-rep.co.uk website.



Carl Hester winning Olympic gold in the dressage with his stallion Uthopia

Riding show strikes gold with Olympic win routine

OLYMPIC gold medal winning dressage rider Carl Hester will perform in Birmingham later this year as part of the Spanish Riding School's 2012 UK tour.

The Team GB rider will be opening the show at the NIA, which runs from November 16 to 18, on his black stallion Uthopia.

Carl will perform his gold medal winning routine from the Olympics. He will also give a masterclass in dressage moves.

Lipizzaner

He will be telling the audience behind-the-scenes stories from London 2012, where the dressage trio led by Carl won Team GB's first gold in the sport for 60 years at Greenwich Park.

The show hosted by television presenter Nicki Chapman will feature stunning displays from the famous white Lipizzaner stallions.

Tickets are from £25 to £65 (plus fees) from www.theticketfactory.com or on 0844 338 8000.

Roast, rock and roll at club night

PEOPLE can tuck into a freshly cooked hog roast before dancing the night away to live music at Halesowen Cricket Club this Saturday.

A marquee will be erected in the grounds of the club, off Grange Road, Halesowen, for the evening which starts at 8pm.

The live band will be playing a mix of rock and pop covers throughout the night. There will also be discounted drinks with membership cards. Tickets cost £8 in advance and £10 on the door.

Craft sessions on for all the family

FAMILIES can take part in a craft session in the middle of a Halesowen beauty spot this week.

Activities have been organised at The Leasowes in Halesowen to keep youngsters entertained throughout the school summer holidays.

People will be able to make their own bird feeders on Wednesday from 10am to noon which they can then take home at the end of the session.

Booking is essential for all events on 01884 814642.

Pub's tribute gig

ROCK tribute band Roar will be taking to the stage at a pub near Halesowen this Saturday. Their gig takes place at the Knight's Quest pub, High Street, Blackheath. Entrance £3. The bar is open until 2am.

The Knights Quest

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Thursday 16th

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Friday 17th

MISS LAURA HARRIS

Saturday 18th

ROAR

Sunday 19th

SUNDAY NIGHT KARAOKE WITH STARMAKERS

Monday 20th

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Tuesday 21st

KARAOKE WITH PREDATOR

Wednesday 22nd

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH CHAD WHITE

Thursday 23rd

THURSDAY NIGHT... STARMAKERS KARAOKE

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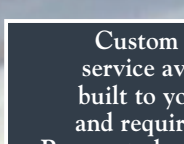
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 18.08.12

CHOICE



Sunetra Sarker stars

Casualty

BBC1, 9.10pm
The medical drama returns for its 27th series, and a new dawn is on its way in the shape of Zoe, who steps up to become the department's first-ever female clinical lead. She faces a difficult decision thanks to a local musical festival that goes wrong. Its stage goes up in flames, and as the crowd rushes to leave, an exit tunnel collapses, causing numerous casualties. Tom and Sam work quickly on the injured, while Tamzin, Jeff and Dixie try to help those still trapped – but things get personal when one of the medics ends up in a spot of bother.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Olympics 2012 Opening Ceremony. Highlights of the show produced by Danny Boyle. (R) **3.45** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.25** Total Wipeout. **6.25** Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull. (2008) The globe-trotting archaeologist races against Soviet agents to find a mysterious artefact of untold power. Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Cate Blanchett. **8.20** The National Lottery: Secret Fortune. High-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles in which contestants have the opportunity to win £100,000. **9.10** Casualty. New series. Zoe's first day as the ED's clinical lead gets off to a hectic start as the team has to deal with casualties injured in a disaster at a music festival. **10.00** BBC News; Weather. **10.20** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes on the opening day of the campaign, including Arsenal v Sunderland and Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur. **11.40** The Football League Show. Highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, on the opening weekend of the season; National Lottery Update. **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.05** The Sky at Night. (R) **12.25** Animal Park. (R) **1.25** Bargain Hunt. Famous Fights. (R) **1.55** Film: Alvarez Kelly. (1966) **3.45** Film: When Time Ran Out. (1980) **5.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **6.30** Flog It! Charlie Ross and Mark Stacey search for antiques in Monmouth, while Paul Martin learns about the work of Laura Ashley and meets an artist in the Forest of Dean. (R) **7.30** Dad's Army. Sergeant Wilson is appointed manager of the Eastgate branch of the bank. Comedy, starring John Le Mesurier. (R) **8.00** BBC Proms 2012. Marin Alsop conducts the Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra in a concert of music from North and South America by Dvorak, Copland, Joan Tower, Villa-Lobos and Ginastera. **10.00** QI. Guests Robert Webb, Phil Jupitus, Ronni Ancona and regular panellist Alan Davies join host Stephen Fry, who asks questions on the topics hypnosis, hallucinations and hysteria. (R) **10.30** TOTP2. Mark Radcliffe introduces archive performances by BJ Thomas, Billy Ocean, Prefab Sprout, Five Star and Ralph McTell. (R) **11.30** Film: Shifty. (2008) Premiere. A cocaine dealer finds his life transformed by the return of a friend and confronts the bleak future he finds himself facing. Drama, with Riz Ahmed and Daniel Mays. **12.55** Film: Freestyle. (2010) **2.25** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.25** Film: Cool Runnings. (1993) **3.20** Film: Octopussy. (1983) **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.00** ITV News; Weather. **6.15** You've Been Framed Rides Again! Harry Hill narrates a compilation show featuring some of the funniest clips sent in by viewers, including a spectacular case of stage fright and a dog with an identity crisis. **7.15** Red or Black? New series. Ant and Dec present the game show in which eight contestants compete to win a huge cash prize by guessing the outcome of a series of stunts and challenges. Continues at 9.15pm. **8.00** The X Factor. New series. Dermot O'Leary hosts the auditions in London and Newcastle, where hopefuls try to impress Gary Barlow, Tulisa, Louis Walsh and this year's new judge Nicole Scherzinger. **9.15** Red or Black? Including a spelling contest between Carol Vorderman and Jonathan Ross. **10.00** The Jonathan Ross Show. **11.10** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** Film: The Break-Up. (2006) Comedy drama, starring Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn. **1.20** The Store. ITV News. Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – Ellie Simmonds Part III. The swimmer completes her preparations for the Paralympics. (R) **6.10** British GT. **6.35** The Grid. **7.00** Ben Rushgrove. Documentary about the British Paralympic sprinter. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Ibiza Rocks: Plan B. (R) **9.10** T4: Cheryl: T4 Special. (R) **9.40** T4: New Girl. **10.15** T4: Revenge. **11.15** T4: Suburgatory. **11.50** T4: Summer Daze. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** V Festival 2012: Live. **4.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.25** Channel 4 News. **6.55** 4thought.tv. A woman who says she has seen the ghosts of her pets. **7.00** Film: Mission: Impossible 2. (2000) A secret agent battles a former spy-turned-criminal mastermind intent on stealing a deadly man-made virus. John Woo's action thriller sequel, starring Tom Cruise. **9.15** Micky Flanagan's Out Out Tour. A performance by the cockney comedian. **10.15** Frankie Boyle: If I Could Reach Out Through Your TV and Strangle You I Would. A 2010 performance by the controversial comedian. **11.20** The IT Crowd. Jen goes on a date. (R) **11.50** Music on 4: V Festival 2012: Saturday Highlights. **1.25** Vic Reeves Big Night Out. (R) **1.55** Comedy Lab. (R) **2.20** Chelmsford 123. (R) **2.45** Film: Machan. (2008) **4.30** Countdown. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. **11.15** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** Monkey Life. (R) **11.55** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.55** Film: King Solomon's Mines. (1950) **3.00** Film: Little Women. (1994) **5.00** Film: Jesse Stone: Thin Ice. (2009) **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Highlights of the third day of the series-concluding Third Test, held at Lord's. **8.00** 5 News Weekend. **8.05** NCIS. A suspected drug-smuggler is seemingly killed by his own dog, which is immediately scheduled to be destroyed – but Abby refuses to hand it over and launches her own investigation. (R) **9.10** Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another. **10.10** CSI: Miami. Horatio investigates the killing of a Mexican sheriff's husband, but his search for clues forces him to confront his wife Marisol's murderer Memmo Fierro. **11.05** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A waiter is murdered at the home of an ageing showgirl, while Sara and Greg discover \$1 million in old banknotes hidden under a closet. (R) **12.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Activity Holidays. (R) **5.00** Hansa's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes
7.15 The Premier League's Most Amazing Moments
9.15 Film: Lesbian Vampire Killers (2009)
10.35 Russell Howard's Good News
11.05 Family Guy
11.50 American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Africa's Magnificent Beasts
8.00 The First World War from Above
9.00 Wallander: The Fifth Woman
11.00 Timeshift: Of Ice and Men
ITV2
4.10 The Xtra Factor: Louis' Best and Worst
5.10 The Xtra Factor: Caroline and Oily's Best and Worst
6.10 The Xtra Factor Rewind
7.10 Film: Twins (1988) **9.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
9.30 The Xtra Factor
10.30 Film: Passenger 57 (1992)
ITV3
4.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot
7.00 Agatha Christie's Marple
9.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot
11.00 A Touch of Frost
ITV4
3.55 The Professionals
5.00 Film: The Far Country (1954) **7.20** Minder. Arthur and Ray live the high life.
8.00 Cycling
9.00 Film: Rocky III (1982) **11.05** Film: The Fog (1980)
E4
3.20 Desperate Housewives
4.20 Revenge
5.15 How I Met Your Mother
6.15 The Big Bang Theory
7.45 Rules of Engagement
8.45 Suburgatory
9.15 Film: Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.40** The Big Bang Theory
Film4
3.10 The Rocker (2008) **5.10** That Thing You Do! (1996) **7.20** Zoolander (2001) **9.00** The Lovely Bones (2009) Peter Jackson's fantasy drama, with Saoirse Ronan. **11.35** Hansel and Gretel (2007)

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SUNDAY'S TV 19.08.12

CHOICE



Rupert Penry-Jones

The Last Weekend

ITV1, 9pm

Shaun Evans and Rupert Penry-Jones have been spending a lot of time together recently, having both cropped up in Silks and Whitechapel and now in this new drama series, based on the novel by Blake Morrison. However, hopefully that's where the resemblance to their characters ends ... The Last Weekend follows Ian Goade (Evans) and Ollie Moreton (Penry-Jones), who, along with their respective wives plan to spend the August bank holiday weekend together in a ramshackle country cottage. But what should be a relaxing few days takes a darker turn.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News. **12.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.10** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.10** Cash in the Attic. (R) **2.40** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.40** Ocean Giants. (R) **4.40** Songs of Praise. **5.15** The Indian Doctor. (R)

6.00 The One Show: Best of Britain. (R)

6.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Britain's Hidden Heritage. New series. Richard E Grant visits Pinewood Studios and sheds new light on British cinema, while Paul Martin takes in Queen Victoria's home, Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

8.00 Countryfile. On a visit to Grizedale Forest in the Lake District, Julia Bradbury discovers why the area is a haven for mountain bikers and John Craven witnesses the end of a red kite project. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

9.00 Silent Witness. Part one of two. Nikki stumbles upon a sinister world of sex grooming and teenage prostitution.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including Manchester City v Southampton.

11.25 In with the Flynns. (R)

11.55 Film: Decoded. (1991) Psychological thriller, starring Goldie Hawn.

1.40 Weatherview. **1.45** Sign Zone: Olympics 2012 Opening Ceremony. Highlights of the show produced by Danny Boyle. (R) **4.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **12.30** Film: Carve Her Name with Pride. (1958) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Virginia McKenna. **2.25** Film: The Way to the Stars. (1945) A naive young pilot is assigned to a British bomber base during the opening skirmishes of the Battle of Britain. Second World War drama, starring John Mills and Michael Redgrave. **4.15** Food It! (R) **5.30** Oceans. (R)

6.30 MotoGP. The Indianapolis Grand Prix (Start-time 7.00pm). Matt Roberts presents live coverage of the 11th round of the season at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

8.00 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang explore the country's western frontier, an area where travellers rarely venture, and learn about the cultures and cuisines of China's ethnic minorities.

9.00 Toughest Place to Be a Miner. New series. Craig Notman, who works in mine rescue in Staffordshire, travels to Mongolia to learn about the risks that gold miners take every day in an attempt to make a living.

10.00 Page Eight. David Hare's spy drama about an MI5 officer's attempts to investigate a threat to the stability of Britain's security services. Starring Bill Nighy, Rachel Weisz and Ralph Fiennes. (R)

11.40 MotoGP. The Indianapolis Grand Prix. Another chance to see the 11th round of the season at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. (R)

1.10 BBC News. **3.45** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** CITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R)

12.30 ITV News: Weather. **12.45** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.15** The X Factor. (R) **2.30** Film: Columbo: Grand Deceptions. (1989) **4.25** Doc Martin. (R) **5.30** The Talent Show Story. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. New series. Bradley Walsh presents as former MP Edwina Currie. Countdown's Rachel Riley, Boyzone's Keith Duffy and Emmerdale star Mark Charnock pit their wits against the Chaser.

8.00 The Cube. Olympic gold medalists Denise Lewis and Sally Gunnell each compete in up to seven challenges, hoping to win cash for charity. (R)

9.00 The Last Weekend. New series. Two couples take a short holiday together, but the men's competitive streak leads to terrible consequences. Suspense thriller, with Rupert Penry-Jones and Shaun Evans.

10.05 ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Film: GoldenEye. (1995) James Bond goes in pursuit of a satellite weapon that has fallen into the hands of a mysterious criminal mastermind. Spy adventure, with Pierce Brosnan.

12.40 The Store: ITV News Headlines. **2.40** Golden Balls. (R) **3.30** Motorsport UK. **4.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Treacle People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** Ironman 2012. **7.10** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - David Smith Part III. (R) **7.15** Road to London 2012: Paralympics Extra. A preview of the wheelchair basketball and rugby events. **7.40** Surfing Special: The Endless Winter. **8.10** Will & Grace. (R) **8.35** Will & Grace. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.50** Jamie Does the French Pyrenees. (R) **1.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.50** The Simpsons. (R) **3.20** The Simpsons. (R) **3.50** V Festival 2012: Live. **4.50** Deal or No Deal. **5.50** Escape from Colditz. (R)

7.25 Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. A priest's views on animals and the afterlife.

8.00 Come Dine With Me. Four dinner-party hosts compete in north Cornwall.

9.00 Lee Evans: Roadrunner. A performance recorded at London's O2 during the madcap comedian's 2011 tour, which saw him play at some of the biggest arenas in the UK and Ireland.

10.10 I'm Spazzy. New series. Disabled performers play pranks on the public.

10.40 The Function Room. Comedy, starring Kevin Eldon.

11.15 Harry Hill. An episode of the oddball sketch show. (R)

11.45 Music on 4: V Festival 2012: Sunday Highlights. Sets by Nicki Minaj, Tine Tempah, Tom Jones, Snow Patrol and the Killers.

1.15 The Law of the Playground. (R) **1.45** The 11 O'Clock Show. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Countdown. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowercups. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Top. (R) **7.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.05** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.10** World's Scariest Plane Landings. (R) **12.55** Film: The Goonies. (1985) **3.05** Film: The Karate Kid Part III. (1989) **5.15** Film: Robin Hood. (1937) Disney animation, with the voices of Terry-Thomas and Peter Ustinov.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Regina struggles to maintain her influence over Storybrooke.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of BB life.

10.00 Mut Ugly World's Ugliest Dog. A competition in California to find the world's most hideous hound.

10.55 Film: Bring It On. (2000) Cheerleading comedy, starring Kirsten Dunst.

12.50 SuperCasino. **3.55** Sons of Anarchy. **4.45** Rough Guide to Short Breaks. (R) **5.00** Hanna's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D **7.10** Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford. **9.00** The Batman Shootings **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bad Education **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Himalaya with Michael Palin **8.00** Timewatch: The Last Day of World War One **9.00** Film: Wilde (1996) **10.50** Omnibus: Gore Vidal's Gore Vidal **11.40** Wilderness Explored

ITV2
3.00 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **5.00** Film: Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties (2006) **6.45** The X Factor **8.00** The X Factor **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Lemon La Vida Loca **11.35** Film: Something's Gotta Give (2003)

ITV3
3.55 Film: Forever Young (1992) **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** The Story of the Costume Drama **9.00** Film: The Portrait of a Lady (1996) **11.55** Cracker

ITV4
2.05 Film: MacArthur (1977) **4.45** Film: Shalako (1968) **7.40** Cycling **8.00** Minder **9.00** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **10.50** Film: Wild at Heart (1990)

E4
2.55 Charlie's Angels **4.10** New Girl **4.40** Suburgatory **5.05** Revenge **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (2005) **10.00** Rude Tube: Rude Zoo **11.00** 2 Broke Girls **11.30** New Girl

Film4
2.55 Addams Family Values (1993) **4.40** The Thirty-Nine Steps (1978) **6.40** Sahara (2005) **8.00** Along Came a Spider (2001) **11.05** Sorority Row (2009)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Extreme Measures, BBC1, 11.45pm

A promising young doctor is shocked to learn a respected neurologist may be carrying out illegal experiments on homeless patients in a risky attempt to find a cure for paralysis. However, when he decides to take action, he underestimates the danger he is putting himself in. Thriller, starring Hugh Grant, Gene Hackman, Sarah Jessica Parker, David Morse and Bill Nunn. (1996)

TUESDAY

Lord of War, BBC1, 11.35pm

A Ukrainian immigrant in New York sells guns to local mobsters, and when he gains access to a vast supply of Soviet weaponry at the end of the Cold War he expands his operation overseas - but makes the mistake of doing business with an African warlord. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Jared Leto, Bridget Moynahan, Eamonn Walker and Ian Holm. (2005)



Syriana, Wednesday, ITV1, 10.35pm

WEDNESDAY

Syriana, ITV1, 10.35pm

A web of intertwining stories reveals a deep seam of corruption within the global oil industry, including a CIA agent drawn into arms dealing and assassinations, an energy analyst determined to meet his company's agenda at all costs, and an unemployed oil worker driven into political extremism. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning George Clooney, with Matt Damon, Christopher Plummer, Chris Cooper, Jeffrey Wright, William Hurt and Tim Blake Nelson. (2005)

THURSDAY

New Town Killers, BBC1, 11.20pm

A teenager from inner-city Edinburgh agrees to act as prey in a deadly game of cat and mouse played by a wealthy banker and his latest recruit. However, the hunters always seem to be one step ahead and the youngster realises his chances of survival are slim. Thriller, starring Dougray Scott, James Anthony Pearson, Alastair Mackenzie, Liz White and Charles Mhene. (2008)

FRIDAY

We Own the Night, ITV1, 10.35pm

The manager of a New York nightclub is caught between two worlds - his brother and father are both highly respected police officers, most of his clientele are gangsters. Despite his best efforts not to get involved, he is forced to choose sides when gang violence escalates and his brother is targeted by a hitman. Crime drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg and Robert Duvall. (2007)

Pick of the Week

Make a note to tune in as it's time to face the music

It's the summer of 2004, and an excited Louis Walsh has phoned to plug new show The X Factor. He's keen to emphasise the fact contestants can't just expect overnight fame. They have to work for it.

"Music has to be from the soul, it has to be about learning your craft," he enthuses. "I don't want these people to think they can just walk into a television show and become a star. It doesn't happen like that. You have to be good."

At the time the show was launched with so much hype it felt like it had been around for years anyway, but Simon Cowell's answer to Pop Idol could have come and gone as fast as that short-lived show.

Fast forward to 2012 and you could say that after nine series, and world-beating acts like Leona Lewis, Olly Murs, One Direction and, er, Jedward, The X Factor (Saturday, ITV1, 8pm) is still going strong.

This week it returns for a new run, so viewers in the London area can expect a slight drain on their resources as it looks like half the capital's energy supply goes into powering TXF's studio.

After last year's series in which Gary Barlow took over as head judge (while Cowell was working on The X Factor US), things seem to be back to normal for the latest run.

Tulisa and Louis are back for more, while Nicole Scherzinger joins the team.

Fest assured they will be pulling out all the stops in their search for the nation's next singing sensation, though there's a slight change to the 2012 contest: everyone aged 16 and above can enter, even if they have had a previous management deal or currently have one.

As the auditions open in London and Newcastle, solo singers and groups will take to the stage in a bid to impress the panel.

The perpetually diplomatic Dermot O'Leary is on hand to celebrate with those talented hopefuls who progress through to the next round, and commiserate with the lone-deaf auditionees who are not so fortunate.

One woman who knows all about learning their craft is soul singer Beverly Knight.

So, does Wolverhampton's acclaimed soul singer have any advice for this year's X Factor contestants hoping to hit the big time?

"You can't just rely on fame to take you there," she explains, echoing Louis' comments. "The discerning musical crowd: they don't care whether you're famous or not. They want to know if you can entertain a crowd, and if you can't, they're off. Fame will hold you for a bit, but it will not sustain you."

So, how will this year's winners keep punters hooked when the series is over?

"The way you build and keep a fanbase is the old school way of getting out there, getting on stage, playing to 10 men a couple of dogs and a cat and learning your craft; learning how to work a stage; learning how to win over an audience."

That's possibly why Bev is still doing well after more than a decade in the industry and some previous X Factor winners need to be Googled instead of searched for on iPod track listings.



The judges return for a new series of The X Factor, Saturday, ITV1, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food BBC2, 8.30pm

Let's make no bones about it: Lorraine Pascale isn't your typical chef. She doesn't sport a sweat-drenched brow, she isn't turning the air blue with frustrated foul language, and there's barely a hair out of place, as she effortlessly glides around her kitchen. Yes, our Lorraine definitely graduates from the Nigella seductive school of culinary genius - mind you, you wouldn't expect anything less from a former model. Is there anything this woman can't turn her hand to? Tonight she turns her attention to dishes that keep cravings at bay and lighten the mood; including a breakfast of ginger bread pancakes with parma ham and maple syrup, and a warming prawn linguine with chorizo and cabernet tomato sauce - to name but a few.

TUESDAY

Accused BBC1, 9pm

Acclaimed writer Jimmy McGovern joins forces with Carol Cullington to script this powerful slice of drama boasting an excellent cast. The plot centres on Mo Murray, a hairdresser who refuses to be intimidated by a local gang. Ignoring the advice of her own family, and supported by her best friend Sue, she disregards the gang-leader's instruction to close her salon on the day of a member's funeral. When a youngster is shot and killed, retribution follows and matters escalate until members of the Murray family find themselves in the dock. There are top turns from all, especially Anne-Marie Duff, Ruth Sheen and Olivia Colman.

Person of Interest Channel 5, 9pm

When it was announced that Hollywood big-hitters JJ Abrams (co-creator of Lost) and Jonathan Nolan (co-writer of The Dark Knight) were teaming up for a new sci-fi-esque serial drama, movie buffs could barely contain their excitement - and after last week's pilot episode, they have yet to be disappointed. This week, Reese (Jim Caviezel) and Finch (Michael Emerson) get on the case of an unsolved murder after receiving the social security number of a girl named Teresa, who has been presumed dead since her father murdered his family and committed suicide. Finch insists the machine isn't wrong in its predictions, and Reese is left with what seems like an impossible task.

WEDNESDAY Emmerdale ITV1, 7pm

Now, we're not saying the Emmerdale music festival is guaranteed to end in disaster but perhaps when Declan is put in charge, he should look a little further than the members of his own household. Megan is certainly unimpressed when she discovers that Katie will be accompanying her to a business meeting in his absence. She roars about the situation to Robbie, who decides to do something about it by letting Katie's horses out of the field so she has to round them up and miss the appointment.

Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 9pm

Gregg Wallace is the latest celebrity to have his ancestry scrutinised by this series. Among the highlights to look out for is Wallace's attempts to solve a long-standing family mystery, although the truth about what happened to his great-great grandfather is perhaps even more intriguing - he disappeared after abandoning his wife and children and deserting the navy. However, easily the best moment comes when Wallace is handed a formal portrait of his great-great grandmother.

THURSDAY

The Oklahoma City Bomber Tapes Channel 5, 8pm

In the years before the September 11th terrorist attacks, America remained in a state of shock following on from the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Downtown Oklahoma City in 1995. The bombing claimed the lives of 168 people and injured hundreds more, making it the deadliest terror attack on US turf prior to the 2001 attacks. Martin Bashir crops up once more in this rather revealing documentary which draws from over 45 hours of the Buffalo News' tapes of interviews with bomber Timothy McVeigh during his time in prison.



Person of Interest, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

FRIDAY

Parade's End BBC2, 9pm

Anyone who thought the BBC would struggle to top The Hollow Crown in the star-studded, classy adaptation stakes may have to think again - new drama series Parade's End practically groans with class. It's been adapted from Ford Madox Ford's quartet of novels by none other than the acclaimed playwright and screenwriter Sir Tom Stoppard. If that wasn't enough of a coup for the Beeb, just take a look at the cast list. It follows the aristocratic Christopher (Benedict Cumberbatch), who marries the wilful socialite Sylvia (Rebecca Hall). Despite their differences and the turbulent nature of their relationship, he's determined to be a good husband - but then he meets the suffragette Valentine (Adelaide Clemens).

In with the Flynns BBC1, 9pm

We're very glad this show's back for a second run, and while no one wants to see it go on past its welcome like star Will Mellor's previous vehicle, Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps, it looks like there's no danger of that happening any time soon - especially if last week's series opener is anything to go by. Tonight, Liam and Caroline decide to throw an anniversary party for Caroline's parents, but poor Liam's patience is tested when Pat upsets Chloe with a few home truths about her conception. In an attempt to smooth things over, mum and dad tell Chloe the story of how they got together all those years ago.

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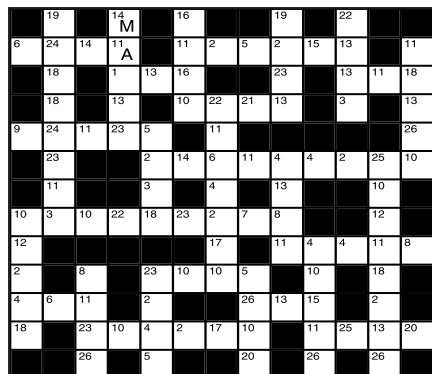
What's On!

Brain Gym

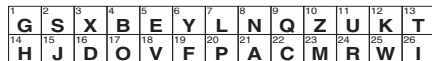
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A young animal gets a developing insect (4)
3. Striking taste with mixed gin (8)
9. The sort of officer who joins up? (7)
10. A pie's turned brown! (5)
11. Describing one with the understanding of the Devil? (6-6)
13. Broken tea-set - is that all a man leaves? (6)
15. Assumed by one who wishes to be in good physical shape (6)
17. Not a monk who practises at the bar! (7-2-3)
20. A plot to destroy a famous Greek (5)
21. and ruin the arts (7)
22. Threatening evil on the left (8)
23. The four corners of the earth will provide information (4)

Down

1. Recommended methods of administration provided by insurance companies (8)
2. In Barcelona I played the instrument backwards! (5)
4. Times when nocturnal insects may be seen round the north (6)
5. The moon's optical illusion is world-wide! (12)
6. I say I am a journalist to create an affect (7)
7. May get engaged in the automobile (4)
8. Descriptive of one who makes a show? (12)
12. They wait at sea (8)
14. Region with particular characteristics in the winter rainfall (7)
16. Tenant has to look after Leslie (6)
18. The turning-point for many engineering enterprises (5)
19. Not down like a tree (4)

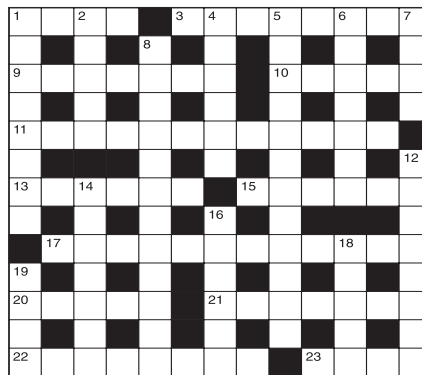
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Replete (4)
3. Hose (8)
9. Last longer than (7)
10. New and strange (5)
11. Defeat (12)
13. Set as a task (6)
15. Most certain (6)
17. Disgraceful (12)
20. Smallest (5)
21. Fragrant (7)
22. Cajoles (8)
23. Cast off (4)

Down

1. Strongly illuminated (8)
2. Type of water-lily (5)
4. Frugality (6)
5. Building (12)
6. Upside down (7)
7. Dupe (4)
8. Shown (12)
12. Bearing accent (8)
14. Confidential (7)
16. Resist (6)
18. Polling-place (5)
19. Knock (4)



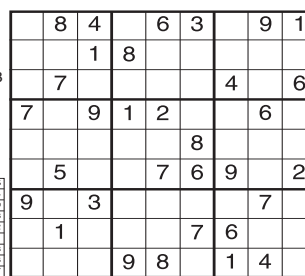
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC: Across: 6 Puts all; 7 Scrap; 9 Scrip; 10 Calling; 12 In one basket; 14 Submariners; 18 Panache; 19 Acute; 21 Alter; 22 His eggs. Down: 1 Quick; 2 Assign; 3 Old; 4 Scales; 5 Painter; 8 Carbine; 11 Anarchy; 13 Curable; 15 Moaned; 16 Racket; 17 Stage; 20 Hit. QUICK: Across: 6 Stretch; 7 Snack; 9 Utter; 10 Matures; 12 Stockholder; 14 Made to order; 18 Callous; 19 Askew; 21 Joust; 22 Forgive. Down: 1 State; 2 Desert; 3 Loy; 4 Annual; 5 Schemer; 8 Gathers; 11 Octopus; 13 Matador; 15 Enlist; 16 Ensign; 17 Leave; 20 Rod.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



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Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is A. Gujarati, Punjabi, Mandarin, all languages.



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Blooms that even the weather cannot disturb

THE weather may have been dire, but lilies have brightened up the garden this summer despite the rain, providing colour in shades ranging from white to pink and zingy orange.

If you want lilies on the patio, Asiatic and oriental hybrids have short, stout stems with fresh green foliage and upward-facing flowers.

Good varieties include Lilium 'Mona Lisa', with its pink flowers with a deep pink centre, and L. 'Peach Pixie', with its peachy orange stems.

Older varieties of trumpet lilies make great border plants.

Some grow very tall and aren't suitable for containers, but others

which grow to around 1m in height make excellent subjects for large containers.

Lilium regale is among the favourites with its richly scented white blooms and 'White Sheen', a dwarf longiflorum type, is also popular with 40cm stems bearing scented white blooms.

Lilies like a rich compost with plenty of nutrients and good drainage.

Plant bulbs 15-20cm apart, burying at least three times their depth and laying the bulbs on their sides when you plant them, to prevent water from becoming lodged between their scales, which can cause them to rot.



Lilies enjoy growing in a rich compost

Former mayor's home given new lease of life



As restored by Elan Homes, The Briars is an impressive, spacious family property

IT was a home coming with a difference as the current Mayor of Kidderminster officially opened a locally listed building.

Built circa 1870, The Briars in Habberley Road has a long history and is thought to have once been home to the Mayor of Kidderminster.

It's now been given a new lease of life by Elan Homes and to celebrate the completion of the restoration project current Mayor, Councillor John Aston, was invited to cut the ribbon to officially open the building.

Marie Morris, sales director for Elan Homes in the north, explains: "The Briars had fallen into a state of disrepair when we purchased it in 2010 and we have spent months lovingly restoring it so that the beauty of this period property can be enjoyed for years to come."

"It's thought that the first resident was the well-known solicitor, magistrate and Mayor of Kidderminster William Boycot Jnr and with that in mind we felt it was fitting that the current incumbent, Councillor Aston, should perform the ribbon cutting ceremony."

Because of the property's architectural and historic significance the local authority has seen fit to include it in the local heritage list. And thanks to



Mayor Councillor John Aston, centre, cuts the ribbon at the opening

Elan's skilled craftsman it's not only been preserved, but enhanced.

Councillor Aston said: "It was a privilege to open The Briars and I am delighted to see the building restored to its former glory by Elan Homes. It makes a delightful and impressive family home."

A Masonic lodge, which was a 1960s' extension, has been demolished and the rest of the building stripped back to the original walls throughout.

"Visitors will be able to appreciate the grandeur of the property as they make their way up the sweeping gravel driveway which leads to the house and around to the detached double garage at the side," Marie adds.

"They'll see that from the outside it still has a very traditional look. Some of the windows have been retained and repaired but many were beyond repair and have been sympathetically replaced. The original roof has been

retained, repaired and re-insulated. But while externally it looks very much as it did in its glory days, inside it's been given a makeover to meet the demands of modern day family living."

The grand reception hallway emphasises the spacious nature of the home, which offers some 3,000 square feet of versatile accommodation including three reception rooms and a substantial kitchen, dining and family area at its very heart.

The kitchen features high quality Symphony units, granite work surfaces and integrated appliances including microwave, oven, dishwasher and fridge freezer.

The property has five bedrooms, two of which have en suites to complement the family bathroom.

The property is open for viewing Thursday to Monday from 10am to 5pm. For more information call 0845 250 8679 or see www.elan-homes.co.uk

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£750 PCM



HALESOWEN, JIMARA, FELDON LANE

Situated in Halesowen (Blackheath), is this extended traditional semi-detached house with plenty of space. Comprising of: Large Living Room, Separate Dining Room, Study, Two Double Bedrooms, One Large Single Bedroom, House Bathroom with Shower, Gully Kitchen with Appliances, Separate Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Driveway for 3 Cars

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, ALBERT ROAD

An immaculately presented detached house within minutes of Halesowen, in a well sought after location, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking to the Front, Detached Garage at Rear, Front and Rear Gardens. A Property Not To Be Missed

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, MORAY CLOSE

A modern three bedroom semi-detached house comprising of: Large Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double and One Large Single Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage and Driveway. Popular Location, Close to Rail/Bus Links and Schools.

£675 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, PEARTREE DRIVE

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac and close to the M5, is this modern unfurnished detached house, comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Garage and Driveway Parking, Rear garden.

£650 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MANSON DRIVE

This Three Storey Townhouse Located within a Short Distance of Old Hill Train Station Comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs Shower Room, Three En Suites, Bathroom with a Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Rear garden.

£600 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Located close to Stourbridge Town Centre, is this unfurnished mid terrace house, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Cosy Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden, Parking Space to Front

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, BANNERS STREET

A mid terrace property which has been refurbished, comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms, White Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Garden with Decking Area, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, HIGHFIELD CRESCENT

A part furnished two bedroomed end terrace house in Colley Gate, close to local shops, bus links to Halesowen/Stourbridge and Merry Hill, within the catchment area of Colley Lane Primary School. Briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Two Double Bedrooms with One Room having Fitted Wardrobes, Large Shower Room, Rear Garden, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT

An unfurnished third floor apartment, close to local shops, train station, and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Electronic Gates leading to Secure Parking Area, Internal Inspection Recommended

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, VICTORIA COURT

A Two Bedroomed Second Floor Flat Having Accommodation Including Hall, Generous Lounge With Balcony Off, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Jacuzzi, Double Glazing And Storage Heating, Communal Gardens.

£495 PCM



QUARRY BANK, NEW STREET

A Detached Bungalow comprising of: Large Lounge, One Double Bedroom, Newly Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Corner Bath and Separate Shower Cubicle, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazed, Rear Garden, Driveway for Two/Three Cars. Available End Of August.

£495 PCM



UPPER GORNAL, TUDOR VALE

Unfurnished end mews house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Two bedroom, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Parking Space

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROCK HAVEN

An immaculately presented modern 1st floor unfurnished apartment, situated close to shops and bus links, comprising of: Open Plan Kitchen with Appliances, Large Bay Window, Two Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazed and Electric Heating, Communal Gardens and Parking Space Available. Available Immediately

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

£450 PCM



HALESOWEN, SHENSTONE FLATS

An unfurnished second floor flat, close to local shops and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Kitchen and Storage Area, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Parking

£450 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

£400 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD

This value for money part-furnished terraced house, close to Old Hill town centre and Old Hill train station, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms and One with Fitted Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, On Road Parking, NO REAR GARDEN

£400 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Situated in a quiet location and within walking distance to Brierley Hill town centre and a short drive or bus to Merry Hill Shopping Centre is this ground floor apartment, comprising of: One Double Bedroom and One Single, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, One Allocated Parking Space

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, PIPPIN AVENUE

Located on this popular development of Homer Hill, Located close to Cradley Heath train station, bus route to Halesowen and Merry Hill, Comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower. A property not to be missed

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

Located on the popular development of the Homer Hill Estate, is the spacious first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking

£375 PCM



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Gower Road, Halesowen

**£274,950**

An extended traditional four bed detached house in an established residential area, benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing, the property offers accommodation - entrance hall, lounge, dining room, guest cloakroom, study, en-suite and family bathroom.

Glaslyn Avenue, Rowley Regis

**£230,000**

A Modern Detached House Comprising of Lounge, 2nd reception room (converted garage), Kitchen / Diner, WC. 1st Floor Accommodation has 4 Bedrooms En Suite to master, Family Bathroom, Drive and rear Garden.

Howley Grange Road, Halesowen

**£225,000**

• Semi Detached Property • Lounge • Dining Room • Conservatory • Kitchen • Utility Room • Three Bedrooms • Bathroom • Garage • Rear Garden • Double Glazing and Central Heating (both where specified)

Long Lane, Halesowen

**£195,000**

o Detached House o Through Lounge o Kitchen o Conservatory o Ground Floor wc o Three Bedrooms o Shower Room o Central Heating and Double Glazing (both where specified)

Lodgefield Road, Halesowen

**£180,000**

• Detached Property • Lounge • Dining Room • Kitchen • Utility • Ground Floor Wc • Bathroom • Three Bedrooms • Front • Rear Garden • Garage • Double Glazing and Central Heating (both where specified)

Ross, Rowley Regis

**£160,000**

• Detached Bungalow • Lounge • Kitchen • Bathroom • Two Bedrooms • Rear Garden • Garage and Driveway

Buckingham Road, Rowley Regis

**£160,000**

• Detached Property • Lounge • Kitchen Diner • Wc • Four Bedrooms • En-Suite • Bathroom • Rear Garden • Garage • Double Glazing and Central Heating (both where specified)

Hillbrow Crescent, Halesowen

**£150,000**

Semi detached property comprising of; entrance hallway, lounge open to dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. Driveway to fore and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating (both where specified).

Cherry Street, Halesowen

**£150,000**

THIS PROPERTY MUST BE VIEWED HAVING UNDERGONE A COMPREHENSIVE REFURBISHMENT - The property comprises of Lounge, Kitchen Breakfast Room, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden and Drive

Boundary Avenue, Rowley Regis

**£134,950**

Traditional property which comprises of Lounge / Diner, Kitchen, Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms, Family bathroom, Rear Garden and block paved drive

Shelton Lane, Halesowen

**£120,000**

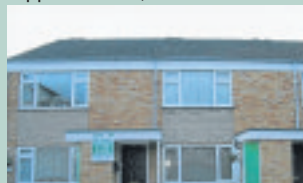
Semi detached property comprising of - porch, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. Driveway, garage, front and rear gardens. Double glazing (where specified)

Blackberry Lane, Rowley Regis

**£120,000**

A traditional semi detached house accommodation comprising of lounge, dining room, kitchen 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden drive and garage.

Pippin Avenue, Halesowen

**£70,000**

1 Bedroom 1st floor flat, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, allocated parking + garage en-bloc

Middlefield Gardens, Hurst Green Road

**£100,000**

First Floor apartment comprising of Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Garage, Communal Carpark and Communal Gardens

Church Street, Cradley Heath

**£100,000**

A traditional mid terraced house. Accommodation comprises 2 reception rooms, kitchen/ breakfast room, bathroom, 3 bedrooms and rear garden

Barrs Road, Cradley Heath

**£100,000**

Traditional terraced house comprising of lounge, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden

Cakemore Road, Rowley Regis

**£90,000**

A modern two bed starter home having kitchen, Lounge, family bathroom, rear garden and allocated parking.

Furlong Lane, Halesowen

**£80,000**

Traditional and terraced property comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs shower room, two bedrooms, en suite and rear garden.

Beeches Road, Rowley Regis

**£70,000**

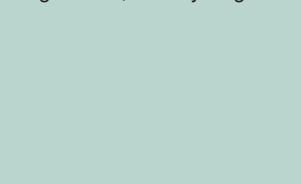
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Olive Lane, Halesowen

**£70,000**

A traditional 2 Bed end terraced house in need of re-furbishment

Regis Road, Rowley Regis

**£40,000**

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Deserved winner is courtesy of Henry

Tipton Town 0 Wolverhampton Casuals 1
CASUALS took a deserved victory in this FA Cup extra preliminary round tie, Chris Henry bagging the game's only goal just after the hour mark.

Each team had a couple of half-chances early on before Henry had a low shot saved by Jack Hayfield.

Tipton's Max Black then played in Lewis Haycock who shot well wide.

Tipton should have taken the lead on 13 minutes when Black missed a good chance.

But Casuals were creating chances of their own and Mark Bellingham headed over from a free-kick while under pressure from Jake Foster.

After a goalless first half, the second period started brightly for Tipton with Danny Forrest shooting wide from a Matt Martin free-kick.

Changes

Mitch Plows became the first name in the referee's notebook, giving away a free-kick, which Hayfield tipped around the post.

Both Black and Eric Bowen shot wide before Casuals took the lead on 61 minutes when Henry made space for himself before firing in.

Tipton's man of the match Bowen was involved in everything the home team were producing; his cross came off the bar and he had a shot well saved by Danny Watson.

Tipton made changes to try to get back into the game, but Bowen had another shot saved in the 70th minute and then put in a dangerous cross a couple of minutes later which was dealt with by the keeper.

Tipton's final two chances fell to Haycock, who headed over, and to Penney, who fired too high from distance.

Covatti debut in crucial clash

NEW Brummies speedway signing Nicolas Covatti is to make his debut in tonight's crucial Elite League derby clash with Coventry at Perry Barr (7.30pm).

Covatti scored three points as the wild card in the Italian Grand Prix at Terenzano.

Covatti comes in on a three-point average and slots in at reserve for a match which Birmingham need to win to maintain their play-off challenge.

Three up, but Yeltz miss a derby win

Halesowen 3 Stourbridge 3

HALESOWEN conceded three late goals to draw after leading their higher league neighbours 3-0 in a pulsating pre-season friendly.

Star home striker Ben Haseley poked the ball just wide in the 11th minute before Drew Canavan fired a 13th-minute free-kick over the bar from the edge of the penalty area at the other end.

Southern Premier Stourbridge captain Ben Billingham then squandered a great chance to open the scoring.

He placed his 22nd-minute shot past the post when clear through

on goal. The Yeltz went ahead with a spectacular 24th-minute volley by Ben Steane from the edge of the penalty area which left goalkeeper Lewis Solly standing.

With Northern Premier League Division One Halesowen dominating play, a 31st-minute rebound from Neil Barnfield's wide-angled shot fell to Haseley, but he stabbed wide of the target.

On the stroke of half-time the lively Haseley forced Solly to make a fine save after a neat interchange

with former Stourbridge striker John Griffin.

Haseley doubled Halesowen's lead just one minute into the second-half when he cut inside and his seemingly weak shot trickled inside Solly's near post.

There was further cause for concern in the visiting defence when Haseley was left all alone to head a loose ball home in the penalty area to establish a three-goal lead for the Yeltz after an hour. But the Glassboys finished

strongly to equalise at 3-3 with three goals in a seven-minute spell following a number of late home defensive changes.

Unlucky defender Sam Brooks headed an attempted clearance beyond his own goalkeeper Paul Evans from a 77th-minute right-wing free-kick whipped in by Billingham.

Two minutes later substitute Luke Benbow glanced a header home to make it 3-2.

And an 83rd-minute deflected shot from substitute James Dyson nestled in the net to leave the sides

on level terms. Both teams had the opportunity to snatch a late winner with Stourbridge substitute Chris Knight striking the crossbar after 84 minutes and Halesowen's Haseley missing out on a hat-trick three minutes later when his diving header fell just wide.

Halesowen Town: P Evans; Lycett, Caines, Brooks, Kelly, Milligan, Steane, Barnfield, Jones, Haseley, Griffin. **Subs:** Mulholland, Westwood, Gueyves, D Evans, Brooks, Oatley, B Smith, Huckfield, Flower, Drake, Seekins.

Stourbridge: Solly; Rock, Griffiths, McCone, Canavan, S Smith, Hendrie, Broadhurst, Turton, Billingham, Lloyd. **Subs:** Dyson, Benbow, Dovey, Knight, Ward.

Attendance: 327.

Baggies on a high with well-deserved victory

STEVE CLARKE'S men ended the "phoney war" of pre-season with a performance and scoreline to send them into the Premier League season in high spirits.

Youssef Mulumbu and Shane Long were on target as the first-choice Baggies claimed a well-deserved 2-0 victory against a Forest side that struggled to handle the intensity and movement of Clarke's men, especially in a stylish opening half-hour, *writes Steve Madeley.*

The Baggies scored both goals during their early spell of utter dominance. Mulumbu rifled home a 25-yard shot and Long converted a penalty.

And, with a line-up that offered plenty of clues about his plans for Saturday's Premier League opener against Liverpool, Clarke's side held on to their lead thanks to a third clean sheet in six pre-season outings.

Favoured
The 4-3-3 system was used again with Claudio Yacob, Mulumbu and James Morrison prospering as a central midfield trio in the absence of Graham Dorrans, absent for family reasons.

Summer signing Yacob produced his best display since his arrival from Argentina. Fans' favourite Zoltan Gera impressed to the left of Long with Peter Odemwingie operating wide on the right.

The new boss's commitment to attacking football was evident, and it was that approach that helped give them the lead on seven minutes after an exchange ended with Mulumbu in possession 25 yards out.

He let fly with a stinging

Nott'm Forest 0 Albion 2

right-footed drive that flew past keeper Karl Darlow.

David McGoldrick tested Ben Foster in the Albion goal and Morrison just missed with a snap-shot before Albion doubled their lead on 18 minutes.

Gera's shot was fumbled by Darlow and, as Long chased the rebound, he was bundled over by ex-Wolves man Greg Halford.

The Irishman picked himself up to convert the resulting spot-kick, sending Darlow the wrong way.

In the second half the game degenerated amid a host of substitutions but one Baggies replacement, Yassine El Ghanassy, produced a lively cameo.

Forest: Darlow; Halford (Maloney, 71), Ayala (Regan, 80), Collins (Lascelles, 69), Harding (Taylor, 74), Moussa (Al-Mutawi, 59), Moussi (Greening, 59), McGugan (Guedioura, 56). **Reid** (Majewski, 56), McGoldrick (Derbyshire, 56), Blackstock (Tudgay, 56). **Subs not used:** Morgan, Camp (19).

Albion: Foster; Reid (Jara-Reyes, 69), McAuley (Dawson, 63), Olsson (Tamas, 63), Ridgeway (Jones, HT), Mulumbu (Thorne, 82), Yacob (Hurst, 82), Odemwingie, Morrison (El Ghanassy, 56), Gera (Grant, 69), Long (Fortune, 65). **Sub not used:** Myhill (19). **Referee:** D Coote (Notts). **Attendance:** 5,543.

Tividale go nap to secure place in next round



Chris Bladen finds the net for the fifth goal against Stratford Town as Tividale ease into the next round

TIVIDALE secured their place in the FA Cup preliminary round with a five-goal salvo that destroyed the fragile defence of Stratford Town in the sunshine at The Beeches.

In a cagey start, the visitors produced the first significant attempt on goal, bringing a spectacular diving save from Tim Beech to hold onto a shot from Luke Williams.

Tividale took control after an excellent move led in overlapping full-back Jason Chilton, who coolly beat the onrushing Tom Cross with a curling

Tividale 5 Stratford Town 2

shot from 15 yards. Three minutes later the lively Kyle Brady almost added a second.

From a rare visitors' raid Jamie Bailey came close to snatching an equaliser with a header that flashed just wide. However, three minutes later Tividale increased their lead when James Cooper turned in a Brady flick from an acute angle.

On the stroke of half-time, Brady got the goal his hard work deserved to

give the 'Dale a three-goal half-time cushion. The visitors hit back with a 61st-minute Chris Gummy penalty but in the 75th minute Brady put the game beyond doubt when he found the empty net from 30 yards after goalkeeper Cross had been left stranded in no-man's land.

Tividale could have added more than the one additional goal scored by substitute Chris Bladen in the 83rd minute. Jamie Bailey grabbed a 90th-minute consolation. Tividale are at Heath Hayes in the next round.

Monarchs looking to Hammer their rivals

BIRMINGHAM Monarchs cycle speedway side are preparing for a big clash with Oxford rivals Horspath Hammers.

The Elite League match, on Sunday, is being filmed by Sky for transmission later in the summer.

Birmingham, formed in 1947, also ride in the Midland League. In 2009 they swept the board with league, British fours and under-19 team championship victories.

Riders Paul Heard and Chris Timms are both England internationals and took part in the recent European individual championship in Ipswich, where Heard was third – the best-placed British rider – and Timms just behind him.

Other prominent members include Nathan Groves and Jack Harrold while Bob Prince this year defended the veterans over-60 title.

The Monarchs train on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the season and are open to anyone who wants to give the sport a try. Males and females of all ages are welcome. Contact team manager Phil Widdas, Twiddas@btinternet.com or go to www.birmingham-monarchs.co.uk.

Aussie to rule at the Rangers

AN AUSTRALIAN footballer has signed for the season at Black Country Rangers.


Blake Thompson came over to this country for trials with Accrington Stanley and West Bromwich Albion.

His coach Gary Scott, based at the Gold Coast Academy of Sport, Ashmore City, Queensland, came across Rangers' website.

He got in touch asking if the player could attend pre-season training to keep himself in shape. The two liked what they saw of each other and Thompson appeared for the club in pre-season friendlies.

Now he has signed to stay with BCR for the season and, after receiving international clearance, made his debut in the 5-2 victory over Willenhall Town.


Rangers and Scott have now set up a link so more promising players may join Rangers in future seasons.



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SPORT

Forest fire
Baggies blaze into life with friendly win
Page 35



Going nap
Tivdale hit five in FA Cup win
Page 35



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Delight as team take double at race circuit

WEDNESBURY team Total Control Racing took a superb double at the Snetterton 300 Circuit.

Carl Breeze won his second Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup round of 2012 and James Dixon claimed the team's first AirAsia Renault UK Clio Cup podium of the year.

Just a week after Mike Robinson was first in the Total Quartz Ginetta GT5 Challenge, the Wednesbury squad earned yet more silverware at the Norfolk track.

Breeze produced one of his best races of the season so far during round 16 of the Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup on Sunday. Starting fourth on the grid, by virtue of his round 15 result from Saturday afternoon, the TCR racer got a sensational start and quickly took third with a fine move at Riches before grabbing second and then first.

Team-mate Jamie Orton had a strong weekend with a fifth place in round 16.

James Dixon's second place finish in round nine of the AirAsia Renault UK Clio Cup on Saturday not only marked his and the team's first championship rostrum of 2012, it also helped hoist him into the top three in the standings.

Tivdale rue a game of few chances

Studley 0 Tivdale 0

TIVDALE were left frustrated as they were held to a goalless draw at Studley in a Midland Alliance game of few chances.

Tivdale dominated the early exchanges as Studley struggled to get much possession. It fell to giant defender Scott Turner to restrict the visitors to just one acrobatic effort from Brett Clarke in the 10th minute.

Ten more minutes passed before Tivdale created the game's second opening. Full-back James Cooper sent in one of many crosses into the Studley penalty area and on this occasion he found the head of Kyle Brady whose excellent effort flashed just over the bar.

Tivdale opened the second-half brightly, but Kyle Hill missed the target from 25 yards with the goal-keeper stranded. Substitute Avun Jephcott and Brady went close for Tivdale and Trevor Edwards for Studley.

Chance to climb up table after victory

Old Hill 216-6, Dorridge 173.

Old Hill won by 43 runs

OLD HILL gave themselves a fighting chance of moving up from the lower reaches of the table with this victory.

After the disappointing results of the previous Saturday games, Old Hill really needed to perform to give themselves a fighting chance of moving up from second-from-bottom of Birmingham League Division One.

Nitesh Patel scored 56 and Dimitri Ratnayake 38 while captain Dan Cox contributed 26 to their 216-6 from the allotted 55 overs.

Old Hill Cricket Club

And it was to be Old Hill's day as Jack Shantry took 5-30 from 10.1 overs, the remaining wickets being shared by Dimitri Ratnayake and Nigel Davenport, with two apiece, and one for Seb Soukup.

Dorridge, seemingly well-placed at 163-5, then lost all their remaining wickets for just 10 runs as they were dismissed for 173.

Old Hill 198-9, Dorridge 200-5.

Dorridge won by five wickets

Old Hill seconds were put in to bat and lost by five wickets. The middle-order

batsmen put on the majority of the runs with Alex Hill reaching 41 from No.3, Hamza Ahmed making 63 not out and Thomas Genders hitting 37.

Dorridge had to bat sensibly to reach the Old Hill total, a task that they took to very well indeed with their first five batsmen making some fine contributions with Kier Threlkeld reaching 51 from a total of 200-5 off 44.2 overs. Bilal Mohammed took three of the five Old Hill wickets.

Old Hill 178, Avoncroft 181-3.

Avoncroft won by seven wickets

Steady batting from the early order batsmen Reece Shilvock (35), Chris Round

(37) and Alex Elsworth (43) allowed the reduced Old Hill thirds of 10 players to reach a defendable total of 178 all out.

It was Old Hill's inability to take crucial wickets that was their ultimate downfall.

Old Hill 149, Hallow 112.

Old Hill won by 37 runs

Old Hill fourths opener Robert Lloyd (57) made the majority of the runs with Ryan Dimmock (26) also making a substantial contribution. Old Hill posted 149, losing their final wicket to the last ball of the innings.

Izmah Khan took 6-45 off 11 overs leaving the home side to limp to 112.

Darlo are stung as Bs claim the points

Darlaston 1 Bustleholme 3
DARLASTON hit six goals the previous week but were turned over in this West Midlands Premier match.

A well-marshalled visiting rearguard won the day at the City Ground.

There were good performances from Phil Ellerby and Chris Norton in the heart of the Bustleholme defence.

The Bs took a 14th-minute lead when Danny Hall brought a good save from the home keeper, but Max Whitehouse was on hand to head home the rebound.

Bustleholme continued to press and could have doubled their lead when a superb Adam Griffiths free-kick found Hall at the back post but he failed to connect properly.

As the second half got under way Bustleholme began on the front foot and in the 49th minute a lovely touch from Hall played in Darrell Francis who finished well with a low drive.

Opener

With 10 minutes left Darlaston halved the deficit when Emmanuel Gueyes finished from close range past keeper Luke Steele.

But with two minutes remaining the result was put beyond doubt when Will Hutt's cross found man of the match Hall's head and he finished clinically.

The Bs, who finished 20th last season, lost 3-0 away to AFC Wulfrunians in their league opener last week.

But they will be heartened to have picked up a win in their second match.

Darlaston, two places lower last season, will be disappointed not to build on their 6-3 home win over bottom club Bromyard Town. Bustleholme face a third away trip on Saturday when they are at Dudley Sports.

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ALBION WILL BATTLE TO KEEP ASHWORTH

ALBION are ready to hit the FA with a hefty compensation bill if they step up their pursuit of Dan Ashworth.

The Baggies are prepared to fight to keep Ashworth at The Hawthorns – and they could make the FA wait a year should Ashworth choose to move.

FA officials are expected to step up their efforts to fill their technical director post in the next few weeks with Ashworth thought to be high on their shortlist.

But Albion are prepared to battle to keep their highly-rated sporting and technical director with a new big-money contract in the offing should he be tempted by the FA's offer.

His Hawthorns contract includes a 12-month notice period. That would allow the Baggies to hold out for a six-figure compensation package or keep Ashworth for a year while he helps them line up a replacement.

The latter option is believed to be more likely, given his key role in helping the club progress since he was promoted to the sporting and technical director role in late 2007.

Tempting

Albion do not believe Ashworth's departure would be guaranteed, even if the FA were to make an approach.

While the chance to shape the FA's future would be tempting for Ashworth, the Baggies believe they could persuade him to stay with the right package.

The salary on offer for the FA role is believed to have deterred former front-running Gareth Southgate, whose decision to withdraw from the running left Ashworth as the new favourite.

And that news has encouraged the Baggies. Ashworth's profile has risen

by Steve Madeley

steadily since he replaced Simon Hunt at The Hawthorns. However, the extra media attention at the FA could also deter him and this will further encourage club owner Jeremy Peace.

Meanwhile, Albion boss Steve Clarke has confirmed midfielder Chris Brunt as his captain for the new season.

The Northern Ireland midfielder, who is fighting to be fit for the opening game of the season because of a calf injury, was made skipper by Roberto Di Matteo and retained in the role by Roy Hodgson. New head coach Clarke has confirmed Brunt will keep the armband.

"I haven't seen any reason to change the captaincy and I decided that quite early on when I came in," said Clarke.

Simon Cox has joined Nottingham Forest for an undisclosed fee. The Republic of Ireland international has penned a three-year deal at the City Ground after passing a medical.

He was Di Matteo's first signing at Albion but found first-team chances hard to come by last season.

Get well gift for injured Yeltz youngster



Albion legend Bob Taylor, left, and Halesowen U14 manager Shaun Barrett hand the shirt to Vuyani Jako

HALESOWEN TOWN have shown their support for teenager Vuyani Jako as he continues his recovery from a broken leg with a special presentation.

He sustained the injury while playing for the club's Under-14 team in a tournament a few weeks ago and the Yeltz did their bit to cheer him up after he was made a special guest at last weekend's match against Stourbridge.

In front of his friends, family and team-mates the youngster, who was voted the most improved player in his age group last season, was presented

with a signed Halesowen shirt at half-time by Albion legend Bob Taylor.

Halesowen chairman Colin Brookes said everyone at the club is hopeful he will make a speedy recovery from the spiral leg fracture.

He said: "It sounded like a painful injury and everyone at the club wishes him well."

Meanwhile, the club's first team warmed up for this weekend's opening game in the Evo-Stik Northern First Division (South) against Mickleover Sports with a 3-3 draw in a friendly

against Stourbridge, leading 3-0 before being pegged back.

Halesowen have confirmed that forward Nathan Jones is signed for next season, despite some uncertainty that he would join Cradley Town or Tipton Town for the new campaign.

Halesowen will face Dudley Town, who overcame Southam Utd 4-1, in the FA Cup preliminary round at The Grove on August 25 while the Yeltz have been drawn away to Studley in the first round of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

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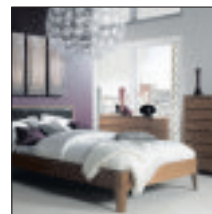
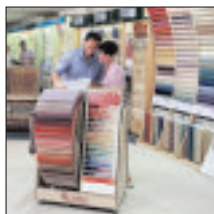
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CELEBRATING GENERATIONS OF FURNITURE RETAILING

For 27 years Cousins Furniture have continued to be one of the leading family owned furniture retailers in the UK, employing more than 140 staff with exciting plans for the future progress of the company.

Cousins was founded by three cousins - Robert, Edward and William - and the first Cousins' furniture store opened its doors in Tyseley, Birmingham, on 17th August 1985.

ORIGINS BACK TO 1921

The original family business had been established in 1921 and had originally specialised in selling items and materials reclaimed from household demolitions. It had sold such things as reclaimed timber, 19th Century fire surrounds and roll-top baths to builders, and also to private customers doing their own home improvements.

The business then developed into a builders' merchants, selling building materials, aggregates and, later, new fireplaces and baths, alongside the reclaimed items. Even at this early stage, they had built a private zoo on-site, which proved a huge attraction for all ages and an unbelievable "ahead-of-time" marketing tool for the firm. As time moved on, the business began to sell household electrical items and also furniture, which was to become the future of the business.

COUSINS IN TYSELEY

The first Cousins furniture store opened in Tyseley, Birmingham in the Midlands in August 1985, where they traded from a 50,000ft² showroom with adjoining offices and warehouse. This new venture was a resounding success and the warehouse was soon relocated, and the showrooms subsequently expanded by 30%.



Cousins Furniture - Tyseley Store

COUSINS OPENS DUDLEY STORE

By 1995, a second retail site was acquired when they purchased the freehold of the landmark Tesco building in Dudley, in the West Midlands. This was transformed into a 90,000ft² furniture showroom, with its own customer restaurant. The store was opened on 17th August 1996, by Jack and Vera Duckworth from Coronation Street, bringing the town centre to a standstill.

A second, separate 12,000ft² unit was developed on the same site, opening in 1998. This sells budget ranges and end of line furniture.



Cousins Furniture - Dudley Store

A NEW HEAD OFFICE

Due to the resulting high sales volumes, the head office, warehouse and distribution functions were centralised to a 4 acre site in Oldbury on the side of the M5, which the company had purchased from B.P. Oils. This opened in September 1997 and the new 65,000ft² warehousing facility utilised a palletised, computer-generated order picking system and pioneered the use of articulated fork-lift trucks in the furniture industry.

The relocation of the main offices from Tyseley to Oldbury allowed fresh expansion and the subsequent refurbishment of the original Tyseley showrooms in 1999 - to its existing size of 90,000ft², complete with a new customer restaurant.

By November 2004, Cousins had set its sights on building a flagship store in Manchester and establishing itself in the North-West of England, having gained an unquestionable reputation for quality and service in the West Midlands.

COUSINS EXPAND IN MANCHESTER

They purchased a 4 acre site on the A57, Regent Road at the end of the M602 in Salford and soon built an inspirational 90,000ft² new concept flagship store which stands just 1.5 miles from the centre of Manchester. The store offers the largest selection of furniture in the whole of the North-West, and offers impressive room set displays that set new standards in the furniture industry.

The store has been acclaimed as England's finest furniture store, attracting customers from across the North-West and regularly from Liverpool, Preston, Yorkshire and the Lake District.

This flagship store also incorporates large lighting, picture and furniture accessories departments, plus a customer restaurant where you can contemplate your thoughts.

NEW DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Due to the store's resounding success, the Company has had to re-think its initial plans to trunk home deliveries up the M6 from their Oldbury distribution centre. By Christmas 2005, they had opened a new 33,000ft² warehouse close to Manchester Airport on the M56 which now forms the hub of their North-West home delivery network.

The success of the Manchester store's venture into home accessories saw the appointment of a Home-ware Buyer, Samantha Gough in Summer 2008 with the subsequent opening of new Homewares Departments in the Tyseley Store, in the Midlands, in December 2008.

This exciting new venture includes departments for tableware, cookware, furnishing accessories, a picture and mirror gallery and bed linens. It has involved a significant investment, with a cutting edge store fit-out by Jameson Smith Associates and showcases leading brands such as Denby, Joseph Joseph, Newgate clocks and bed linen ranges from Kylie Minogue and Kirstie Allsopp.

2010 witnessed the opening of Cousins' first Stressless Comfort Studio in Manchester, showcasing the largest selection of these ergonomically designed chairs and sofas in the North West. Due to its resounding success, flagship studios were opened in the other two stores in April 2011. All now offer an unrivalled selection and shopping experience for this world leading brand.

April 2011 saw a significant change in the running of the business, with the appointment of John Shotton (Robert's eldest son) to Managing Director and Matthew Shotton (Robert's youngest son) to Retail Director. Robert now assumed the position of Chairman, further strengthening the family influence on the direction of the business.



Left to right, John Shotton, Thomas Shotton, Robert Shotton, Richard Foster, Edward Shotton and Matt Shotton.

Alongside these corporate changes came the groundbreaking appointment of the first non-family member to the board of directors.

Richard Foster became Operations Director having started with the company as an 18 year old junior bedding sales consultant when the Dudley store opened in 1996. Richard now oversees the systems, warehousing, distribution and customer services functions.

THE FUTURE IS EVOLVING

Retail continues to evolve and is no longer just a bricks-and-mortar operation; increasing emphasis is now being placed online with the internet and various social media channels. 2012 has seen a significant commitment and investment by Cousins toward enhancing their online presence and service. In March, Cousins entered into an agreement with BT Fresca, a world leading web platform provider and development company to build a brand new website, due to launch at the end of the year.

The new Cousins website will integrate fully with existing in-store systems to provide a seamless multi-channel shopping experience with unprecedented levels of service, usability and functionality. This will then be followed by the opening of a mobile site in Autumn 2013.

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